

May 10, 2008

To: Interested stakeholders in discussions concerning Dungeness Crab management in California

From: David Crabbe, consultant to Environmental Defense Fund

Re: Report on May 7 Crab meeting held in Ukiah

This report is meant to keep all interested crab fishermen up to date on discussions about potential improvements to the management of the crab fishery. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) hosted a fifth crab steering committee meeting on May 7 in Ukiah, following from discussions at the earlier steering committee meetings. We welcome input from meeting participants if there are changes that need to be made to this report to more accurately reflect discussion and decisions that were made at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to make further progress on a proposed representation structure for a crab advisory body, review data on the crab fishery from the Department of Fish and Game, and to hear about possible models for creating an advisory body under the authority of the CA Department of Food and Agriculture.

Notes and Outcomes summarized below

1. Updates from port meetings and conference calls
2. Presentation by Glenn Yost, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
3. Data review
4. Breakout groups

Next steps

- Next meeting: May 21 or 23
- EDF will compile a draft Straw Proposal based on the breakout groups' discussion and proposals (see below) for review by the steering committee, to be followed by vetting in ports prior to the next steering committee meeting
- EDF to report on steering committee progress to Senator Wiggins

1. Updates from port meetings and conference calls

Since the last steering committee meeting, port meetings have been held in most ports. Steering committee participants gave brief updates on these meetings. In general, ports have expressed ongoing support for the process although opinions continue to vary on how best to determine port representation to protect the broad range of interests.

2. Presentation by Glenn Yost, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Glenn Yost gave a presentation about CDFA's Marketing Branch, and its Mandated Marketing Programs (i.e. Councils, Commissions and Marketing Orders). There are 56 current programs whose activities include commodity promotion and marketing, production and marketing research, maintenance of quality standards using inspection programs, and verification of commodity food safety. Among current such programs in the Marketing Branch are the Sea

Urchin Commission and the Salmon Council; the Seafood Council used to be under the CDFA before it was voted out of operation.

Glenn left handouts, his contact information, and a copy of his powerpoint presentation. For more information, go to <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt> or call (916) 341-6005 or email Glenn Yost or Bob Maxie (gyost@cdfa.ca.gov or bmaxie@cdfa.ca.gov)

3. Data review

DFG staff was unable to attend but provided EDF with summary data. FMA had also prepared a number of summary charts and presented them. The steering committee discussed data briefly. However, there was no clear recommendation of how the data would resolve positions on representation to a crab advisory body particularly given that the designation of “home port” in DFG records is not a reliable indicator of where vessels are actually located or where they deliver their catch. It was suggested that steering committee participants list all vessels in their home port known or believed to be permitted for crab, so that DFG may match them to landings data, rather than rely on vessel or permit home port registrations.

4. Breakout groups

After lunch, the steering committee met in four breakout groups, each made up of participants from different ports with different views. The goal was to discuss various starting positions on the draft by-laws and short-term management issues, and try to move forward on possible areas of compromise.

Within the breakout groups, participants were asked to brainstorm ideas and attempt to find areas of possible compromise, then develop a proposal for moving forward. The breakout groups then presented areas of agreement back to the full group.

There was not sufficient time for detailed discussion of these proposals, therefore as stated in ‘next steps’ above, EDF will compile a draft straw proposal based on the breakout group discussions and proposals – and previous areas of agreement within the Draft 4/14/08 By-laws’ – to be reviewed by the steering committee and discussed in ports in preparation for the next steering committee meeting. EDF will be in touch with steering committee members by phone to discuss the straw proposal.