



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 1, 2008

Dave Colpo
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)
205 S.E. Spokane Street
Portland, OR 97202-6413

Dear Mr. Colpo:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently completed domoic acid analyses in Dungeness crab harvested during October 2008 from selected sites in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. CDPH has determined that the levels of domoic acid in Dungeness crab from these areas do not pose a significant public health threat. There are no public health restrictions to commencing Dungeness crab season as scheduled on December 1, 2008.

However, PSMFC is advised that CDPH was unable to obtain samples of crab harvested from Mendocino County. Although there is no indication that crab from this area contain elevated levels of toxin, CDPH is unable to verify the safety of the crab from Mendocino County until laboratory analyses can be performed.

CDPH would like to acknowledge the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, California Fish and Game, Pacific Seafood Company, and crab fishermen for their assistance in supplying crab for analysis.

Sincerely,

Hugo Cornejo
California Department of Public Health
Food and Drug Branch