



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
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November 13, 2012

### Dungeness Crab Season Delay Notification

Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 8276.2 (c) provides the Director with the authority to delay the December 1 season opening, due to soft-shell or poor quality crab conditions, in Fish and Game Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 (Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties) for a minimum of 15 days.

**Crab quality tests conducted in northern California on October 21 and November 5, 2012, indicate the crabs will not be ready for harvest on December 1, 2012. Based on these data and the interest in cooperatively managing the interstate Dungeness crab fishery, I am delaying the opening of Dungeness crab season in northern California (Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9) until 12:01 am December 16, 2012.** Additional crab testing is planned for December 2, 2012 and later, if necessary, to estimate the improvement in crab condition, after which time an additional delay may be necessary.

Pursuant to FGC Section 8276.3 (b), the opening date in Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 shall be preceded by a 36-hour gear setting period. Therefore, crab gear may be set beginning no earlier than 12:01 pm on December 14, 2012.

As provided in FGC Section 8276.3 no vessel may take or land crab within Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 during the closure period. **In addition, FGC Section 8279.1 prohibits anyone who landed crab under authority of a California permit from ocean waters outside of Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9, from participating in the crab fishery in Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9, or any other delayed opening areas in Oregon or Washington, for 30 days following the opening of those areas.**

Charlton H. Bonham  
Director