

**Date:** October 18, 2012

**To:** Director Bonham, California Department of Fish and Game

**CC:** Paul Hamdorf, California Department of Fish and Game  
Tom Barnes, California Department of Fish and Game  
Bob Farrell, California Department of Fish and Game  
Peter Kalvas, California Department of Fish and Game  
Christy Juhasz, California Department of Fish and Game  
Dave Colpo, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

**From:** DCTF Executive Committee

**Re:** Development of Recommendations for Temporary Crab Quality Testing Funding Guidelines (AB 2363)

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On October 10, 2012, the California Dungeness Crab Task Force (DCTF) Executive Committee (EC), a subcommittee of the DCTF, convened a conference call at the request of the California Department of Fish and Game (Department), to discuss the implementation of AB 2363 as it pertains to the development of pre-season Dungeness crab quality testing funding guidelines. The EC and Department staff, developed recommendations for a set of temporary crab quality testing funding guidelines. These recommendations for temporary guidelines adopted by the Department will be presented to the DCTF at a later date for consideration, and changes to these guidelines including an updated set of recommendations may be developed at that time. In the meantime, Department staff and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) have agreed to adopt these recommendations as temporary, interim guidelines for the 2012-2013 Dungeness crab season, and during future seasons until the DCTF approves a final set of guidelines.

#### *Recommendations for Temporary Dungeness Crab Quality Testing Funding Guidelines*

The Department and PSMFC will coordinate to send out vessels with observers onboard to retrieve Dungeness crab for the purposes of pre-season Dungeness crab quality testing. All Dungeness crab caught will be provided to a processor(s) to process the crab using the well-established guidelines developed through the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee. The processor will then provide PSMFC with an accounting of the weight of the picked meat and the market value of the canned meat, which will specify the total available budget for the crab quality test. PSMFC will disperse payment using the following temporary guidelines:

- Observer costs (including observer time and travel) will be paid at the rate(s) indicated by the providers of the observers.
- Processor costs will also be reimbursed at rate of \$4 per pound. Note: EC members contacted three processors who indicated that \$3, \$4, and \$5 per pound would be sufficient to cover their costs. Since there was no agreement among these processors, the EC feels that \$4 per pound is a fair and reasonable middle ground that will to cover processors' costs.
- Vessel costs will be reimbursed at a flat rate of \$1,000 per port, per test.
- If there are insufficient funds available from the sale of the Dungeness crab to cover these costs, observer costs will be paid first, in full. Then, processor and vessel costs will be pro-rated based on the amount of remaining funds such that processors and vessels will only be reimbursed for a percentage of their expenses.
- If there are surplus funds available after all of the above expenses are paid, the funds will be retained by PSMFC in an account until the DCTF is able to meet and discuss the process for managing surplus funds. In the meantime, these funds may be used to cover future crab quality testing when budget shortfalls occur.

#### *Permanent/Final Dungeness Crab Quality Testing Funding Guidelines*

The DCTF Administrative Team will work with DCTF members and the Department to establish a date for a future DCTF meeting where members will be presented with these temporary guidelines (above) and asked to discuss a number of outstanding details, including, but not limited to, potentially revising these temporary guidelines, establishing a process for managing surplus funds, and providing recommendations to amend these temporary guidelines. The DCTF Administrative Team will be in direct communication with Department and PSMFC staff to coordinate on the process for finalizing the Dungeness crab quality testing funding guidelines in a timely manner.