

Coastal Dungeness Crab Tri-State Committee Meeting Summary
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

July 24 and 25, 2018

Embassy Suites by the Portland Airport
7900 NE 82nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97220

Meeting Participants

Chair: Dave Colpo (PSMFC)

Tri-State Representatives: Sonke Mastrup (CDFW), Caren Braby (ODFW), Heather Reed (WDFW)

California:

Agency Advisors: Christy Juhasz (CDFW), Christina Grant (CDPH), Bob Puccinelli (CDFW)

Industry Advisors: Craig Goucher, Mike Cunningham, Rick Harris, Vince Doyle, Dick Ogg, Jimmy Anderson

Oregon:

Agency Advisors: Troy Buell (ODFW), Kelly Corbett (ODFW), Alex Manderson (ODA), Ryan Howell (OSP), Todd Thompson (OSP), Hugh Link (ODCC), Tim Novotny (ODCC)

Industry Advisors: John Corbin, Emily Dunn, Bob Eder, Scott Hartzel

Washington:

Agency Advisors: Dan Ayres (WDFW), Jerry Borchert (WDOH), Dan Chadwick (WDFW)

Industry Advisors: Ray Toste, Larry Thevik, Dale Beasley, Dwight Eager, Steve Gray, Paul Burill.

Summary of Tri-State Agreements

- I. Pre-Season Testing Protocol:
 - A. Build and maintain flexibility in the Tri-State protocol by taking steps to incorporate or confirm the following management measures:
 1. NEW management measures:
 - a. Allow for establishment of more than two fishing zones with different opening dates in the Tri-State area (Point Arena-US Canada border) for delayed openings due to crab quality;
 - b. Extend the latest possible opening date from Jan 15 to Feb 1 for delays due to crab quality;
 - c. Increase accountability for monitoring harvest locations;

- i. Consider sharing of fish tickets (and moving to electronic tickets), solar loggers, or other electronic monitoring programs and a central repository, such as PSMFC, for information sharing.
 2. CONFIRMED (status quo) management measures:
 - a. Retain Dec 1 target start date;
 - b. Retain 30 day fair start for all meat quality and biotoxin delays.

Timeframe (for full implementation): 1-2 years depending on California's legislative process.

- B. Formalize fair start regulations consistency among the three states (as achieved over the last year by California Legislative action) by adding to Tri-State protocol for clarity and documentation.

Timeframe: Target 18-19 crab season

- C. Formalize preseason testing processing guidelines consistency (as achieved through discussion at 2018 Tri-State meeting) by adding agreements to Tri-State protocol for clarity and documentation of:
 1. time from cooking to picking,
 2. time crab are chilled before picking,
 3. all pick outs observed

Timeframe: Target 18-19 crab season

II. Tri-State Biotoxin Monitoring Plan will be updated and formalized

- A. Reaffirmed purpose and goals for biotoxin plan, which are still appropriate and relevant with minor adjustments.
- B. Agreed to revise plan to reflect the following:
 1. Broaden general statements in the plan to other biotoxins that could potentially affect the fishery and retain the details of the plan as specific to domoic acid;
 2. Insert table/matrix that identifies protocols under which each state will continue testing crab for biotoxins after preseason testing (as developed by each state's health agencies);
 3. Include a goal to test the crab meat for every crab viscera sample that is above 30 ppm, as a commitment to jointly evaluate the correlation of domoic acid levels in crab viscera and crab meat on an on-going basis;
 4. Remove requirement for mandatory observer coverage for sample collection and consider other accountability measures for the future.

Timeframe: Target 18-19 crab season

- C. WA and CA will consider enhanced crab traceability measures similar to OR's new crab records requirements in order to have additional options and flexibility, such as harvesting under an evisceration, in future biotoxin events affecting the region.

Timeframe: not determined.

III. Reducing whale entanglement risk in Dungeness crab gear

- A. All three states recognize this issue affects the Tri-State region and committed to developing a joint Tri-State statement supporting the following:
 - 1. Continue communications through Tri-State about progress of state whale entanglement working groups and state adopted initiatives to reduce entanglement risk;
 - 2. Develop cooperative approaches and help each other achieve progress when we have targeted actions to reduce risk of entanglements;
 - 3. Underscore the need for further entanglement research within the Tri-State region, to better understand whale entanglements in fishing gear and the development of effective mechanisms for reducing entanglement risk.

Timeframe: Fall 2018