

## **Commercial Dungeness Crab - December 2005**

### **Reminder to Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishermen**

#### **Fish and Game Code Section 8279.1**

(d) No person shall take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes from any vessel in ocean waters off Washington, Oregon, or California for 30 days after the opening of the Dungeness crab fishing season in California, Oregon, or Washington, if both of the following events have occurred:

(1) The opening of the season has been delayed in Washington, Oregon, or California.

(2) The person has taken, possessed onboard, or landed Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in either of the two other states prior to the delayed opening in the ocean waters off any one of the three states.

The States of California, Oregon, and Washington have delayed opening the 2005/2006 commercial Dungeness crab season. As a result of this delay, there has been some confusion regarding how this delay impacts fishermen who have taken advantage of the Dungeness crab fishery that opened on November 15, 2005 in the San Francisco area of California. California Fish and Game Code Section 8279.1 prohibits commercial Dungeness crab fishermen from participating in any other commercial Dungeness crab fishing in any of the three states for the first 30 days of the opening of the delayed season. If you were involved in the commercial take, possession onboard, or landing of Dungeness crab in the season that opened November 15, 2005 in the San Francisco area California, you cannot take, possess onboard, or land Dungeness crab for commercial purposes for 30 days after the opening of the delayed season in California, Oregon, or Washington.

The delayed commercial Dungeness crab season is set to open in all three states on December 31, 2005. California allows a 36 hour gear setting period prior to the start of the season on December 31. The pre soak period for California is different than Oregon and Washington, so know the specific regulations for the area you will be fishing.

Anyone, including fishermen from California, Oregon, or Washington, who participated in the early California commercial Dungeness crab season in California will be prohibited from participating in the delayed Dungeness crab season until January 30, 2006 in California, Oregon, and Washington. The Fish and Game Code states that the California Fish and Game Commission shall revoke the California Dungeness crab vessel permit held by any person who violates this section.