



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Law Enforcement Division
1416 9th Street, Room 1326
Sacramento, California 95814



To Interested Parties:

Re: 2006/2007 Dungeness Crab Season Information

All crab pots or traps not belonging to a California Commercial Dungeness Crab permitted vessel must be removed from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the California coast before January 1, 2007.

Starting January 1, 2007, a new California law requires vessels commercially fishing crab in the EEZ off California to possess a California Dungeness Crab permit. Any crab pots or traps in the EEZ off the California coast after January 1, 2007 not being fished by a California permitted vessel will be seized as a public nuisance and an investigation will be conducted to find the owner of the trap for possible enforcement action.

During the month of December 2006, there may be some Oregon Dungeness Crab permitted vessels that set and fish crab pots in the EEZ off California. Any crab caught by an Oregon permitted vessel within the EEZ off California can be landed into Oregon ports following landing requirements.

Oregon has new crab pot restrictions in place that require buoy tags and limit the number of crab pots Oregon Dungeness Crab permitted vessels can use in Oregon state waters and in the EEZ along the Oregon coast. Once the crab fishery opens in Oregon no crab pots will be allowed to be possessed (including transported) on Oregon crab permitted vessels within Oregon State waters and EEZ off Oregon without the proper Oregon buoy tag attached and assigned to the permitted vessel.

During the month of December 2006, Oregon permitted vessels can transport commercial crab pots through California state waters to a dock within California under the following two conditions: (1) the vessel transporting the pots cannot have any crab or other commercial fish on board while traps are being transported to shore through California state waters, and the pots must be tied open with all bait removed from the trap; and (2) Oregon pots could be transported through California state waters by a California permitted vessel (for the Oregon permitted vessel), however if a person other than the owner of the pots is transporting them through California state waters, the person must follow the above restrictions as well as have written permission to possess the pots in their immediate possession from the owner of the pots while they are being transported.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Foley".

Nancy Foley, Chief
Law Enforcement Division