



MARK B HORTON, MD, MSPH
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

November 28, 2007

Dave Colpo
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)
205 S.E. Spokane Street
Portland, OR 97202-6413



Dear Mr. Colpo:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has completed its annual pre-season analysis of Dungeness crab. CDPH has determined that the levels of domoic acid in Dungeness crab obtained from selected sites in Sonoma and Marin Counties during November 2007, do not pose a significant public health threat. At present, there are no public health restrictions for the Dungeness crab season that commenced on November 15, 2007.

However, PSMFC is advised that CDPH was unable to obtain samples of crab harvested from the area extending South of Pt. Reyes to Half Moon Bay, including the Farallon Islands. Although there is no indication that crab from these areas contain elevated levels of toxin, CDPH is unable to verify the safety of the crab from these areas until laboratory analyses can be performed. CDPH will be requesting the assistance of industry to supply crab samples to verify the safety from these areas

CDPH will continue to monitor Dungeness crab for toxins and will advise Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, crab industry, and consumers of any potential public health risks resulting from elevated levels.

CDPH would like to extend its appreciation to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, California Fish and Game, Caito Fisheries, Pacific Seafood and crab fishermen for their assistance in supplying crab for analysis.

Sincerely,

Hugo Cornejo
California Department of Public Health
Food and Drug Branch