



FAX TRANSMISSION
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
 205 SE Spokane Street, Suite 100
 Portland, OR 97202
 Voice: (503) 595-3100
 E-mail: dave_colpo@psmfc.org

2008 Northern California Dungeness Crab Quality Test

November 5, 2008

The Tri-State protocol that governs the test of Dungeness crab quality in northern California sets a minimum recovery goal of 25% rounded to the nearest whole integer. Given the test results below, CDFG has determined that a second crab test is not needed, because the results significantly exceed the minimum for opening the fishery on the normal start date of December 1. CDFG staff discussed this situation with agency representatives from Oregon and Washington, and there was consensus that the intent of the sampling protocol had been met so that further testing could be waived.

As indicated by the table below crab landed during the first Crescent City/Eureka/Trinidad (CET) test of 2008, October 27-29, had a combined green weight of 829 pounds with 237 pounds of meat recovered for a combined CET recovery rate of 29.3%. The crab meat will be provided to various non-profit centers.

Description	Crescent City	Eureka	Trinidad	Combined
Time drain started	6:01	7:05	6:55	
Time drain ended	8:51	9:55	9:15	
Boat weight	213	328	288	829
Drained weight	205	321	283	809
Picked weight	60	93.69	83.06	237
Combined	29.3%	29.2%	29.3%	29.3%

In addition to the quality test crab 42 crab (six from each of the 7 tested sites) were/will be provided to the California Department of Health Services for domoic acid testing. The results of this test are not available at this time and will be distributed by the CDHS when available.

Departures from Tri-State protocols

There were 3 instances where Tri-State protocols were not followed on this test:

- 1) Tri-State protocols call for a single test site off Ft. Bragg, Usal (N 39° 48'.00 / W 123° 53'.00). This site was not tested due to a lack of available fishing vessels. However, in tests during other recent years the Ft. Bragg samples have always had yields greater than the other northern California ports. Therefore, the lack of data from Ft. Bragg in this instance is not thought to raise a question regarding whether or not the 25% minimum would have been met if results from Ft. Bragg had been available.
- 2) Two of the 3 completed ports had less than 300 pounds of drained weight. Tri-State protocols state, "If the total green weight of all the crab from a single area is less than 300

pounds, that sample will not be valid and the area must be re-sampled as soon as possible”. The protocols do not address what to do if subsequent test result in less than 300 pounds.

- 3) At each test site Tri-State protocol reads, “Pot strings of 6 pots each will be set at approximately 15, 30, and 45 fathoms along each line.” Trinidad has 2 set sites, Trinidad Head and the Lagoons. Due to a miscommunication the vessel that conducted the Trinidad test sites brought 5 pot strings per site/depth, or 30 pots, not 36 pots. Had all 6 pots been available at Trinidad it is likely that the 300 pound sample weight would have been exceeded.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Dave Colpo