

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

May 13 and 14, 2019
Holiday Inn Portland Airport

Meeting Participants

Chair: Dave Colpo (PSMFC)

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

California:

Agency Advisors: Joanna Grebel (CDFW), Christy Juhasz (CDFW), Christina Grant (CDPH), Duy Truong (CDPH), Bob Puccinelli (CDFW), Susan Klasing (OEHHA), Beckye Stanton (OEHHA)

Industry Advisors: Mike Cunningham, Tom Estes, Zach Rotwein, Randy Smith, Jon Gonzalez

Oregon:

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

Industry Advisors: John Corbin, Gary Motsinger, Bob Eder, Scott Hartzel, Joe Speir

Washington:

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

Industry Advisors: Dale Beasley, Zed Blue, Paul Burrill, Dwight Eager, Jim Long, Larry Thevik

*All health agencies participated on second day of the meeting with both CDPH and OEHHA representatives participating by phone.

Summary of Tri-State Agreements

I. Pre-Season Testing Protocol:

- A. Build flexibility in the Tri-State protocol by taking steps to incorporate the following management measures:
 - 1. Modify protocol to include:
 - a. Allowance for multiple lines (number not specified; not required, but optional); clarify that establishing multiple lines requires Tri-State agencies consultation (section IV or V)
 - b. Allowance for Feb 1 opening based on draft concept paper (page 4).

Target timeframe for signature (for full implementation): October 2019; CA unlikely able to implement new provisions for 1-2 years depending on legislative process.

Lead: Oregon

- B. Adopt fair start matrix additions/clarifications as shown in ppt into Tri-State protocol

Target timeframe for signature (for full implementation): October 2019

Lead: Oregon

II. Reducing whale entanglement risk in Dungeness crab gear

- A. Fish and Wildlife agencies will schedule a Tri-State consultation with NMFS PRD to clarify ITP process and get consistency; press for a West Coast ITP training.

Target timeframe: ASAP

Lead: Oregon initiates

- B. States will poll industry on the request from CA to reduce opening MQ% from 25% (status quo) to 24% starting in 2019-2020 season.
Options: a) status quo; b) 24% from CA/OR border south; or c) 24% Cascade head south

Target timeframe: October 2019

Lead: CA/OR/WA

- C. States will inform each other on any gear and line marking proposals, but coordination is not required (any state can move forward independently).

Target timeframe: As proposals are developed.

Lead: CA/OR/WA

III. Crab Biotoxin Management:

- A. Draft and send Tri-State letter to FDA, pressing for a rapid and official clarification on the Domoic Acid action level for crab viscera. Language in their statement should be explicit on whether the action level for domoic acid in crab viscera is
 - "equal to or greater than 30 ppm" (consistent with other FDA action levels).
 - "greater than 30 ppm" (which is not consistent with other FDA action levels).

Target timeframe (for full implementation): June 2019

Lead: PSMFC

- B. Revise Biotoxin plan to reflect the following:
 - a. Modify biotoxin protocol include schedule of decisions similar to meat quality
 - b. Include consistent action levels if adequate FDA guidance is obtained

- c. Include cross-border buffer area policies if possible
- d. Identify inconsistencies and goal statements for future improvement
- e. Finalize document with signatures from all FW and health agencies

Target timeframe for signature (for full implementation): October 2019

Lead: Washington

- C. Develop an interim plan ("what do I do" FAQ) for industry, in the event that there is not consistent domoic acid and CA will allow crab being harvested at 30 ppm again in 2019-2020 season.

Target timeframe for finalizing (for full implementation): October 2019

Lead: California

- D. PSMFC will help with a three-state biotoxin results data portal, to provide consistent results in one location.

Target timeframe (for full implementation): October 2019

Lead: PSMFC initiates

DRAFT concept for changing Jan 15 to Feb 1 opener
5/13/2019

- Default opening date. Move from Jan 15 to Feb 1?
 - Our goal (status quo) is to open Dec 1 on 25%/23% meat fill (25% meat fill south of Cascade Head, and 23% north of Cascade Head).
 - We continue to strive for 25%/23% fill until decision-point for Jan 15.
- When we can't meet the 25%/23% goal by Jan 15 decision-point,
 - If all areas within a fishing zone are 23% or greater, then the default opener is:
 - OPEN on Jan 15 (mandatory)
 - If one or more areas within a fishing zone are <23% (due to older or recent data that are below criteria), then the default openers are:
 - OPEN on Jan 15, if there is a threat (whales, biotoxins)
 - DELAY to Feb 1*, if there is no threat

*Note: A fourth round of testing is allowable (but not required) to try to meet 23% for a 1/15 opening.

January 15 opener is the status quo drop-dead date as follows:

Meat Recovery	Whale Presence/Threat or Other Issue	Opening date(s)
Meets 23% (no rounding)	n/a	Open Jan 15**
Most recent test < 23%	Yes	Open Jan 15 (to avoid whales/other issue)
Most recent test < 23%	No	Delay to Feb 1 (to allow MQ to improve)

**Note: In order to open on Jan 15, a fishing zone must meet 23% or higher; this is in contrast to current Tri-State protocol, which requires opening on Jan 15, at ANY meat fill.

Also for consideration:

- Original goals for opening the season:
 - Target to open on Dec 1
 - High meat quality
 - Coordination among the states
 - Orderly start, fair start
- 2019 goals for opening the season:
 - We want to open according to the goals above (original intent)
 - We need to build in the new threats and management needs: triple threat of changing molting season (MQ), biotoxins, and whale entanglements/season.
 - We will hold off access to crab harvest (in order of operation):
 - Fish on crab safe for public consumption. (biotoxin)
 - Fish on crab in way that avoids whale entanglements. (whales)
 - Fish on quality crab. (MQ)