

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: February 20, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife



Subject: **Agenda Item for April 8, 2015, Fish and Game Commission Meeting Request for Notice Authorization Re: Recreational Dungeness Crab and Crab Traps Regulations**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize publication of notice of its intent to consider amending subsections (c) and (e) of Section 29.80 and subsections (a)(3) and (a)(7) of Section 29.85 Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The proposed regulatory changes include modifications to the regulatory text to make bag and size limits uniform statewide for California Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFVs). Additional proposed amendments would require that sport crab traps contain a destruct device to prevent 'ghost fishing' by lost traps and that trap buoys display information identifying the crab trap owner to deter theft of crabs from traps.

The Department is also recommending a seven day waiting period prior to the start of the Dungeness crab recreational season for deploying crab traps. This would prevent crab traps, as specified in subsection (c) of Section 29.80, Title 14, CCR, from occupying fishing grounds for Dungeness crab before the season starts.

Lastly, the Department is proposing to clarify language in subsection (e) of Section 29.80, Title 14, CCR specifying that Point Arguello is located in Santa Barbara County.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Regional Manager of the Marine Region, by telephone at (805) 568-0216. The public notice should identify Environmental Scientist, Christy Juhasz as the Department's point of contact for this rulemaking. She can be reached at (707) 576-2887 or by email at Christy.Juhasz@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment(s)

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