

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture
California Fishery Updates and 2018 Legislative Recommendations
October 27, 2017 1-5pm
825 Fifth Street, Eureka, California
Background

[Senator Mike McGuire](#), Chairman of the [Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture \(JCFA\)](#), is holding a hearing, “[California Fishery Updates and 2018 Legislative Recommendations](#)”. The hearing will be held Friday October 27, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Chambers 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, California.

The hearing will focus on efforts to reduce interactions between whales and crab fishing gear, Dungeness Crab fishing and expiring regulations, domoic acid test process and [results](#), fishery disasters (crab, salmon sardine and urchin), and legislative recommendations for 2018. The JCFA will hear updates from the [California Fish and Game Commission](#) (Commission), [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW) and the [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH). Additionally, there will be reports from the [California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group \(Whale Working Group\)](#), the [Dungeness Crab Task Force \(DCTF\)](#), and the [California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout](#). Fishing representatives will update the JCFA on federal fishery disaster relief efforts, and legislative recommendations for 2018.

[Jacque Hostler-Carmesin](#) Commission Vice-President, [Dr. Craig Shuman](#), CDFW [Marine Region](#) Manager, and [Dr. Dave Mazzera](#), CDPH, Food and Drug Branch Chief, headline the list of speakers and presenters.

Due to poor seasons and extensive fishing closures, Chairman McGuire has requested federal fishery disaster declarations for [crab](#), [salmon](#), [Pacific sardine and red sea urchin](#). Subsequently, [Governor Brown](#) and [Lieutenant Governor Newsom](#) officially requested federal fishery disaster declarations for [crab](#), [salmon](#), [Pacific sardine](#) and [red sea urchin](#). Commerce has made a determination for [Dungeness crab and rock crab 2015-16](#) and [Yurok Tribe’s Klamath River Chinook salmon fishery 2016](#) but determinations for California salmon ([CA/OR Klamath River salmon – Yurok 2017](#), [Hoopa Valley Tribe 2016 and 2017](#) and [CA/OR Chinook Ocean Salmon fisheries 2016 and 2017](#)), Pacific sardine and red sea urchin are all pending. Despite multiple attempts Congress yet to provide funding.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife recently was [sued for alleged Endangered Species Act violations](#). The suit alleges Dungeness crab fishing as responsible for whale entanglements – a topic that will be covered at the hearing. Representatives from the [Whale Working Group will describe their efforts and progress](#) to limit the risk of whale entanglements.

DCTF representatives will discuss development of legislative recommendations to renew expiring Fish and Game Code (primarily Sections [8275-8284](#) and [9002.5](#)) that govern the Dungeness crab fishery.

[Additional information](#) including links to: the agenda, press releases, articles about the hearing, live stream links, and presenter biographies can be viewed at the committee web site under the “[2017 hearings](#)” heading.

Please contact [Tom Weseloh](#), Chief Consultant, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture for more information.