



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

MEDIA



RELEASE

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## **Press Advisory: All-star panel of experts confirmed for hearing on delayed crab season**

*Santa Rosa, CA* – Senator Mike McGuire, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Assemblymember Jim Wood, Committee Vice-Chair, are hosting a special hearing focused on the delayed opening of the Dungeness Crab season. The focus of discussion will be on public health issues, ocean conditions and the coastal fishing economy. A panel of leading experts - from across California - will be presenting on a variety of subjects related to the delayed start of season.

### **Here is the hearing information:**

**What:** The California Dungeness and Rock Crab Fishery: Public Health, Ocean Conditions and Maintaining a Strong Coastal Economy

**When:** [Thursday, December 3](#)

**Where:** Main Room of the Steele Lane Community Center, [415 Steele Ln., Santa Rosa, CA 95403](#)

**Time:** [3pm – 6pm](#)

**Who:** State & federal agency representatives, fishing industry representatives, leaders from the Dungeness Crab Task Force, North Coast elected officials and more.

**Livestream links:** The hearing will be livestreamed, available at <http://senate.ca.gov/> or <https://youtu.be/1zntQVViocw>

**Pre-Hearing Video Footage:** Video and Sound On Tape of Senator McGuire previewing the hearing is available.

### **On the agenda: Presenters will include**

- Charlton Bonham – Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Eric Sklar – Commissioner, California Fish and Game Commission
- Patrick Kennelly – Chief, Food Safety Section, California Department of Public Health
- Dave Mazzer, Ph.D. – Chief, Food and Drug Branch, California Department of Public Health

- Melanie Marty, Ph.D. – Acting Deputy Director for Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- Cat Kuhlman – Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council/Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency
- Valerie Termini – Fisheries Policy Advisor, Ocean Protection Council
- Don Marshall – Board Member, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations
- Gerry Hemmingsen – Supervisor, Del Norte County/Commercial Representative, Dungeness Crab Task Force
- Rick Gutierrez – Rock Crab Fishery, Santa Barbara Seafood Station
- Jim Yarnall – Recreational Representative, Dungeness Crab Task Force
- Joe Caito – President, Caito Fisheries
- Chuck Cappotto – President, Community Fishing Association of Bodega Bay

In early November, just as the recreational and commercial Dungeness crab seasons were set to open, unsafe levels of domoic acid were found in local crab.

**“We know that the North Coast is crab country – it’s a top industry here – and the decision to delay the opening did not come lightly,” Senator Mike McGuire said. “This forum will bring all of the industry experts together in one location, focused on protecting the public’s health, ocean conditions and our crab dependent coastal economy.”**

The closure will remain in effect until the Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), in consultation with the Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), determines that domoic acid levels no longer pose a significant risk to public health and no longer recommends the fisheries be closed.

The Dungeness crab fishery is in the top tier of California’s commercial fisheries. Values have exceeded \$95 million per year and long-term averages of nearly \$60 million.

For more information on the crab fishery hearing, go to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture website at <http://fisheries.legislature.ca.gov/>

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