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- Appreciate everyone's efforts – Legislature, Chairman McGuire, Assemblyman Wood, CDFW, CDPH, OEHHA – Uncharted territory
- Not sure that anyone was prepared for the possibility that this closure would last as long as it did. That perception that the end might be just around the corner colored a lot of the attitudes toward the closure, for better or worse. I think all stakeholders will be better braced for extent of the closure if this happens again.
- Whether or not we see this again, we need to prepare for the possibility that this crisis will become a normal part of the crab fishery. Main questions have to be: What can we do to lessen the burden on both government and industry, and to maintain the public's confidence in California's Dungeness crab?
- Management Issues
  - Develop a written, enforceable protocol for domoic acid testing and management, including timing, notification procedures, and opening protocol. Obviously this was more or less impossible given the novelty of this season's closure, but we've learned quite a bit since November 15. Fishermen who perform testing need to be compensated for that public service.
  - CDFW's policy on opening portions of management districts. For District 10, this caused significant consternation and work for CDFW, and while a majority of the fleet came together on the issue, the competing viewpoint was valid. Resolving to open at district lines until a date certain, or at district lines until some other objective trigger occurs, will reduce the heartburn that went into decision making.
  - Fair Start provisions: this popped up recently and thankfully CDFW was very efficient in taking a stance on the issue. That said, we need a legislative fix to clarify the language in Fish and Game Code sec. 8279.1 to reflect the actual intent of the fair start rules as they've been applied the last 20 years.
- PR Issues
  - Coordinate a media message and engage all of the departments in assuring the public that our safety testing is robust and accurate, and that when the all-clear is sounded, the public should run to the store to get some crab. Sen. McGuire proposed a Shellfish Council as a mechanism for funding PR efforts. What about a California Crab Holiday?
- Health and Safety Issues
  - Foremost on every crabber's mind is whether the 30 ppm threshold is accurate for human consumption of Dungeness crab. We know that this could cut against us, but we'd rather be accurate than get people sick. Flip side is we may be dooming and industry on bad info. We're concerned that the standard is based on mussels, where the viscera is consumed. We're concerned that it doesn't take into account the volume of crab eaten or that advisories to not eat viscera seem effective. Is CDPH working with FDA to refine the standard?