

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture November 19, 2019 Hearing Background

[Senator Mike McGuire](#), Chair of the [Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture \(JCFA\)](#), and [Assemblymember Mark Stone](#), Vice Chair, are hosting the [State of the 2019-20 Dungeness Crab Season and Putting Fish Friendly Highways in the Fast Lane](#). The hearing is Tuesday, November 19, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the State Capitol in Room 112.

Charlton Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Jim Davis, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of transportation will headline the list of speakers and presenters.

The hearing will provide our legislators, their staff and the public an opportunity to learn more about California's upcoming Dungeness crab season. Presentations and discussion will focus on: [general ocean conditions](#), [disaster relief fund distribution](#), [domoic acid testing](#), [Crab quality tests](#), [risk of marine life entanglements](#), and the recent [declaration to delay the season opener](#). The JCFA will also hear testimony from fisheries leaders about their perspectives and concerns regarding the Dungeness crab fishery.

The JCFA will also explore the issue of [fish passage barriers on our state highways](#) and the urgent need to protect and restore California's native fishes in the face of a changing climate. Testimony will address the problem created by fish passage barriers and the urgent need for fish to access headwater habitats. Panelists will discuss [SB 857, Kuehl \(2005\), Fish Passages](#) and [Streets and Highway Code Section 156.1](#) and the statutorily required [Caltrans Fish Passage Reports to the Legislature](#).

The agenda features presentations by state agency, academic researchers and fishing industry representatives. Representatives of the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), the [California Department of Public Health](#) and the [California Department of Transportation](#) will provide testimony. The hearing will also include testimony from the [California Coast Crab Association](#), the [Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations](#), and the [UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences](#).

Additional information including links to: the agenda, press releases, articles about the hearing, live stream links, and presenter biographies may be viewed at the [committee web site](#) under the "[2019 hearings](#)" heading.

The public is welcome to attend and there is no fee for admission. The hearing will include a public comment period and will be [live streamed](#).

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