



Protecting California’s Whales from Entanglement and Maintaining the Sustainability of the Dungeness Crab Fishery

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture

Chairman: Senator Mike McGuire

Vice Chairman: Assemblymember Mark Stone

November 28, 2018 – 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Aquarium of the Bay – Farallon Room

PIER 39, the Embarcadero & Beach Street

San Francisco, California **Live stream:** <http://senate.ca.gov/>

1. Welcoming Remarks

Senator Mike McGuire, Committee Chairman

Assemblymember Mark Stone, Committee Vice Chairman

Members of the Joint Committee

George Jacob – Chief Executive Officer, Aquarium of the Bay

2. Remarks from Agency and Department Leaders

Deborah Halberstadt – Ocean Protection Council Executive Director/Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency

Charlton Bonham – Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. 2018-19 Dungeness Crab Season: Domoic Acid and Quality Testing, and Disaster Relief Updates

Dr. Craig Shuman – Manager, Marine Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Benson Yee – Chief, Food Safety Section, California Department of Public Health

Noah Oppenheim – Executive Director, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations

4. Whale Entanglements and Ship Strikes: Briefing on Disentanglement Efforts and Ship Strike Concerns

Scott Benson – Research Fisheries Biologist, Southwest Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

Pieter Folkens – Primary Large Whale Disentangler, NOAA’s Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program

Cotton Rockwood – Senior Marine Ecologist, Point Blue Conservation Science

5. Actions to Reduce Risks of Whale Entanglements from Fishing Activities

Kelly Sayce – Administrator, California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group

Dr. Jarrod Santora – Associate Researcher, University of California Santa Cruz

Sonke Mastrup – Program Manager, Marine Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Dr. Geoff Shester – California Program Director, Oceana

Dick Ogg – Commercial Fisherman, Bodega Bay, California

6. Litigation Update: Whale Entanglements in Fishing Gear

Kristen Monsell – Oceans Program Litigation Director, Senior Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity

Noah Oppenheim – Executive Director, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations

7. Public Comments – 2 minutes per speaker

8. Closing Comments: Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members

9. Adjournment