



Dear (sir or madam):

The Oregon Dungeness Crab fishery is vital to the economic vitality of our coastal communities, our region, and our state. And never has it been more important than right now, from a business perspective, for the longevity of our industry that we showcase the fact that our fishery has been built sustainably for the long-term benefits of our environment. We are writing to seek your assistance in fulfilling the requirements needed for the commercial Dungeness Crab fishery to become recertified against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) fisheries standard in that regard.

Currently, the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) is leading the effort, working on a Basic Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) with the goal of achieving MSC certification. However, through the MSC pre-assessment process, we have learned that an MSC full assessment would have a greater chance of being recertified if one or more of the other West Coast states associated with the fishery worked in collaboration with Oregon toward establishing fishery harvest controls and management plans based on a common set of biologically meaningful reference points (i.e., what is used to define safe levels of harvesting for marine fish populations). This is because Dungeness crab populations in Washington, Oregon and California are considered one stock. The Dungeness crab stock is currently healthy, but if it declined, Oregon could only take actions within its own waters. Since Oregon crab populations represent less than half of the coastwide stock, Oregon's ability to take meaningful management actions on their own to prevent such a decline is considered insufficient.

**We are asking you for a call to action, to commit your resources and recognize the need for sustainable Pacific Dungeness crab across three states. This can be accomplished by collaborating with ODCC with the goal of achieving MSC certification. A first step is to identify a willing industry participant to undertake a pre-assessment for the Washington State coastal Dungeness crab fishery. A second step is to join ODCC in entering both Oregon and Washington crab fisheries into MSC full assessment.**

We understand California, Oregon and Washington already collaborate in the management of the Pacific Coast Dungeness crab fishery through the Tri-State Dungeness Crab process. While not a focus of the Tri-State Process, we believe meeting and adopting the needs identified in the pre-assessment above will help not only support the interstate management but also ensure the long-term sustainability of the coastal Dungeness crab fishery and improve marketability of the product.

Dungeness crab is an important fishery to our states' economies. But consumers are also looking for proof that the food they buy is healthy and harvested ethically and sustainably. Certification is one way we can prove that is being done. In fact, many businesses are now requiring certification.

We ask that you please assist our commission in entering the Oregon and Washington Dungeness Crab fisheries into full MSC assessment against the MSC Standard.

You may contact Hugh Link, Executive Director of the ODCC, at [hugh@oregondungeness.org](mailto:hugh@oregondungeness.org), or Tim Novotny, Communications Manager of the ODCC, at [tim@oregondungeness.org](mailto:tim@oregondungeness.org), for more information.

Sincerely,

Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission