

THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1393
Author: McGuire (D)
Amended: 4/23/26
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 6-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern
NO VOTE RECORDED: Allen

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/14/26
AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SUBJECT: Commercial fishing: steelhead trout: Dungeness crab

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill makes multiple changes to the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, revises and extends the sunset on the steelhead trout fishing report-restoration card (steelhead report card) until January 1, 2032, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) and the California Fish and Game Commission (commission) in the California Natural Resources Agency. In general, the department implements and enforces the regulations set by the commission, as well as providing biological data and expertise to inform the commission's decision-making process.
- 2) Authorizes a commercial fisher participating in eviscerated crab fishery authorized by the department director in an otherwise closed area due to public health risks to transit closed waters if the vessel adheres to electronic

monitoring requirements specified by the department (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §5523(a)(3)).

- 3) Establishes the risk assessment and management program (RAMP) for the Dungeness crab fishery (FGC §8276.1), authorizes the department director to delay the start of the Dungeness crab fishery for specified reasons (FGC §8276.2), and creates the Dungeness crab task force (DCTF) to review, evaluate and make recommendations about the fishery, among other provisions applicable to the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, as provided. Sunsets the RAMP on January 1, 2030. Makes inoperative the department director's authority to delay the start of the fishery and the DCTF on April 1, 2029 and sunsets them on January 1, 2030.
- 4) Authorizes a vessel to transit state waters with Dungeness crab traps that are not tagged with California tags if the traps contain either a valid Oregon or Washington trap tag, no crab species are onboard the vessel, and the traps are not deployed in state waters (FGC §8276.5(a)(4)).
- 5) Authorizes the department director to open waters that are otherwise restricted for the commercial take of Dungeness crab or rock crab for public health reasons during a time period that the Department of Public Health authorizes the manufacture and sale of eviscerated Dungeness crab or rock crab, as provided, in accordance with the following requirements:
 - a) The vessel is required to submit to electronic monitoring of the vessel when engaged in take of the crab species in order to verify location.
 - b) Prohibits a person from taking, possessing, or landing Dungeness crab or rock crab under an evisceration order on the same trip in which the Dungeness crab or rock crab are taken, possessed, or landed from waters outside where the evisceration order is in effect.
 - c) Authorizes a person taking Dungeness crab or rock crab to sell or provide the crab only to a licensed processor, as provided.
 - d) Requires the processor to identify on the fish ticket that the crabs were taken from an area under an evisceration order (FGC §8285).
- 6) Requires the department director, when the evisceration order is lifted, to lift restrictions in a manner to promote a fair and orderly fishery (FGC §8285).
- 7) Requires a person taking steelhead in inland waters to have a valid California sportfishing license and a valid nontransferable steelhead trout fishing report-restoration card. Requires the cardholder to record certain fishing information

on the card, as specified, and return it to the department, as provided. Authorizes the commission to adopt necessary regulations to implement this section. Specifies the report card fee is \$5 for the 2004 year. Authorizes annual adjustments via indexing to the fee, as specified (FGC §7380).

- 8) Authorizes revenue raised by the report card, upon legislative appropriation, to be expended to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead trout resources, and to administer the program, as provided. Requires a legislative report providing information about the steelhead report card program on or before July 1, 2025, as specified. (FGC §7381).
- 9) Sunsets the steelhead report card provisions on January 1, 2027. (FGC §7382).

Existing regulation requires report card holders to return or report their cards to the department, as provided. Authorizes restricting a report card holder who fails to return or report their report card to the department from obtaining the same report card in a subsequent license year or makes the holder subject to an additional fee for the same report card in a subsequent license year. (14 California Code of Regulations § 1.74(d)(1)).

This bill:

- 1) Extends the sunset on various commercial Dungeness crab fishery sections, including the RAMP, 10 years to January 1, 2040. Extends the inoperative date and the sunset on various other commercial Dungeness crab fishery sections, including the authorization for the department director to delay the opening and the DCTF, 10 years to April 1, 2039, and January 1, 2040, respectively.
- 2) Authorizes crab species to be on board a vessel transiting state waters when the vessel contains crab traps without a California tag and with a Washington or Oregon tag on them and the traps are not deployed in state waters, and when all the requirements of (9) below are met.
- 3) Creates the Dungeness Crab Fleet subaccount (subaccount) in the Dungeness Crab Account, as provided. Requires money deposited in the subaccount to be managed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Requires the DCTF, on or before December 31, 2027, and by December 31 annually thereafter, to develop and submit a spending plan for the moneys in the subaccount. Requires the moneys in the subaccount to be available, upon

appropriation, to implement the DCTF's spending plan. Makes these provisions inoperative on April 1, 2039, and sunsets them on January 1, 2040.

- 4) Requires the amount remaining in the Dungeness Crab Account after certain allocations are made to be deposited in the subaccount starting in fiscal year 2027 and every two fiscal years thereafter through fiscal year 2039.
- 5) Authorizes a vessel to transit certain closed waters with Dungeness crab traps and Dungeness crab onboard if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) Requires the vessel to submit a notice of intent to the department at least 72 hours before entering the closed area. Requires the notice to include the vessel's name, the vessel captain's name and phone number, the port of landing, the number of trips anticipated where the vessel will enter a closed area, the requested start and end date of closed area transit, and the procedures in case of mechanical failure or breakdown during transit, as provided.
 - b) Requires the vessel to maintain continuous transit through the closed waters and to possess a fully operational electronic monitoring system during the closed area transit. Requires all gear to be secured so no traps are rendered unusable.
 - c) Requires the department to provide an exemption from certain requirements of (a) and (b) for vessels experiencing mechanical issues during transit.
 - d) Defines continuous transit to mean transiting through a closed area as close to a direct route without stopping or delaying and maintaining at least a speed of 3 knots at all times.
- 6) Raises the steelhead report card fee to \$15 for the 2027 license year.
- 7) Requires the department to assess a late or non-return fee of someone who does not return a steelhead report card by the date established by the department. Prohibits the department from selling a steelhead report card for a subsequent year until the late non-return fee is paid in full.
 - a) The base fee for the late or non-return fee is {blank} amount for the 2027 license year and is authorized to be adjusted annually, as provided.
 - b) Revenues from the late or non-return fee shall be treated the same as steelhead report card fees, as provided.
 - c) The department is prohibited from waiving the late or non-return fee.
- 8) Adds a legislative report providing information about the steelhead report card program on or before July 1, 2031, as specified.

- 9) Extends the sunset on the steelhead report card program five years to January 1, 2032.
- 10) Makes various minor technical and conforming changes, and provides that no reimbursement is required for local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state, as specified.

[NOTE: Additional background and information about this bill may be found in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee analysis.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Unknown, potentially significant ongoing costs and revenue impacts (General Fund, Fish and Game Preservation Fund [FGPF]) for CDFW to continue administering the steelhead report-restoration card program, implement and administer a late/non-return fee, update required legislative reporting, process vessel transit notices, and continue Dungeness crab fishery management activities.

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/14/26)

Bodega Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association
California Trout
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association
Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
Salmon Trollers Marketing Association
San Francisco Crab Boat Owners' Association
The Nature Conservancy
Trout Unlimited

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/14/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, "California's steelhead trout and Dungeness crab fisheries are cornerstones of California's natural heritage and economic lifelines for communities throughout the state. SB 1393 preserves the state management frameworks that have been essential to sustainably overseeing these fisheries and protecting marine ecosystems from entanglement

risk. The bill also ensures that reliable data — not guesswork — drives decision-making and determines how we allocate access and enforce laws. Fishermen, processors, and resource managers need clear and predictable rules around which they build their lives and livelihoods.”

Prepared by: Katharine Moore / N.R. & W. / (916) 651-4116
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