

## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** August 4-5, 2017

**Agenda item:** Results of the 2016 Puget Sound Dungeness Crab Fishery – (Briefing).

**Presenter(s):** Bob Sizemore, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program  
Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief of Enforcement, Enforcement Program

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**Background summary:**

The Puget Sound crab fishery policy (Policy C3609) was reviewed and revised by the Commission on October 1, 2010. The policy stipulates that a Department report summarizing the Puget Sound crab fishery will be given to the Commission on an annual basis. This briefing will summarize the performance and harvest of both commercial and recreational fisheries and regulation compliance by enforcement staff during the 2016 season.

Puget Sound crab fishery landings have been robust in recent years with a peak in 2015 and slight decline in 2016. Recreational crab endorsement sales show an increasing trend with over 240,000 sold annually in 2016. New crab fishers compared to the total are declining and represented about 26% of the total crab endorsement sales in 2016. There is an intensive enforcement effort for this fishery. Catch record card violations and retention of undersized crab continue to be issues during enforcement contacts with recreational fishers. Commercial crab licenses have been limited entry since 1981 and the total number licenses is 249. Commercial crab harvest is limited to northern Puget Sound and 2016 ex-vessel crab value exceeds \$11.7 million.

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**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

None, briefing only

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

None, briefing only

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**Action requested:**

None, briefing only

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**Draft motion language:**

None

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**Justification for Commission action:**

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**Communications Plan:**

Agency web site, news releases

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