

David Bitts
President
Larry Collins
Vice-President
Stephanie Mutz
Secretary
Chuck Cappotto
Treasurer

**PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**



Timothy R. Sloane
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

Please Respond to:

California Office

P.O. Box 29370
San Francisco, CA 94129-0370
Tel: (415) 561-5080
Fax: (415) 561-5464

www.pcffa.org

Northwest Office

P.O. Box 11170
Eugene, OR 97440-3370
Tel: (541) 689-2000
Fax: (541) 689-2500

15 September 2016

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

We write to urge you to sign into law SB 1287, the "Whale Protection and Crab Gear Retrieval Act," by Senator McGuire. The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations believes that a statewide Dungeness crab gear retrieval program is in the best interests of California's fishing industry, and will improve the already strong reputation of California Dungeness crab as one of the most sustainable fisheries in the nation. PCFFA is the largest and most active trade association of commercial fishermen and women on the West Coast. For over forty years, PCFFA has lead the industry in assuring the rights of individual fishermen and fighting for the long-term survival of commercial fishing as a productive livelihood and way of life.

Current law prevents fishermen from the fleet from engaging in wide-scale lost gear recovery. SB 1287 addresses the problems that lost gear presents for navigation, other fishing activities such as salmon trolling, and overarching issues of marine debris. The bill puts the onus for recovery on the fishing fleet to ensure that this preventable source of marine debris is managed, by permitting fishermen and port associations to collect as much gear as possible. The bill is structured around the California Dungeness Crab Task Force's (DCTF) recommendations for a gear retrieval plan for California. We hope you will support our industry's efforts to craft a solution to the problem of lost gear in California's waters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Sloane
Executive Director