

1 [Supporting State Legislation.]

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3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to support AB 2146, legislation to**  
4 **extend the season for dungeness crab fishing in the San Francisco Bay, and limiting**  
5 **the number of traps allowed on each vessel.**

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7 WHEREAS, Currently, south of Mendocino County, the Dungeness crab season opens  
8 November 15, and north of Medocino County, the season opens December 1; and

9 WHEREAS, Large vessel boats from Northern California, Oregon and Washington  
10 have taken advantage of the fact that Dungeness crab season south of Mendocino County  
11 opens approximately two weeks earlier than seasons in their own areas; and,

12 WHEREAS, This "double-dipping" by larger northern boats has, over the years,  
13 created an annual "race for crab" or derby-like Dungeness crab fishing industry resulting in a  
14 harvest of the majority of crab, especially in Fish and Game District 10, in the first 3-4 weeks  
15 of the season; and,

16 WHEREAS, In order to maintain the long-standing tradition of Thanksgiving crab at  
17 Fisherman's Wharf, as well as shorten the two week difference in the north vs. south  
18 Dungeness crab season, Assemblyman Leno has drafted AB 2146 to tie the season opening  
19 date in with Thanksgiving in all districts except 6,7,8 and 9; and,

20 WHEREAS, Dungeness Crab fishing has been a San Francisco tradition since the  
21 Gold Rush, however, since the 1970's, California crab fishing has become increasingly  
22 dominated by large commercial boats; and,

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Dungeness crab has traditionally been harvested and  
24 delivered to Fisherman's Wharf by small and medium sized family owned local boats; and,

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1           WHEREAS, In the past, those crabs were bought, processed and distributed to small,  
2 family-owned fish markets, crab stands, and restaurants; and,

3           WHEREAS, Over the years, there has been a decline in these family owned and small  
4 business boats due to their inability to compete with larger boats and processors from the  
5 north; and,

6           WHEREAS, Large crab boats (larger than 50 feet), based North of Mendocino County  
7 and in Oregon and Washington State have begun over-fishing the San Francisco Bay; and,

8           WHEREAS, Though this over crabbing is not creating a resource problem for the crab  
9 species (crabbers are required to throw back small crabs and all females to maintain a strong  
10 crab population), it is preventing sustainable crabbing throughout the season for the  
11 fishermen dependent on these crabs for their livelihood; and,

12           WHEREAS, In response to these concerns, Assemblyman Mark Leno authored  
13 legislation sponsored by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association and  
14 supported by the Crab Boat Owner's Association, the San Mateo County Harbor District and  
15 others that would change the date of opening of Dungeness crab season in all districts except  
16 Fish and Game Districts 6,7,8 and 9 (districts north of Mendocino County) from November 15  
17 to the Saturday before the final Thursday in November and would create a Dungeness crab  
18 trap limit of 250 traps per vessel in all Fish and Game districts except 6,7,8 and 9; now,  
19 therefore be it

20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
21 supports AB 2146, Assemblyman Leno's legislation; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges members of the  
23 California State Legislature to support AB 2146; and, be it

24           FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, a copy of this resolution will be  
25 forwarded to the office of Assemblymen Mark Leno and Leland Yee.