

2016 Ocean Climate Summit Abstract

General Information

Title: Cracking Crabs with Deliciously Difficult Data

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Abstract

In 2015, El Nino conditions off the Western Coast caused massive toxic algae blooms that shut down the \$60M Dungeness Crab fishery. Unfortunately, the public data on water quality, human health risk, fishery economics, and other important management data was in disarray, making stakeholders angry and confused. FlowWest rapidly integrated all this data and presented it to the Dungeness Crab Task Force to help keep fisherman, agencies, and the public informed about the management of the fishery. This effort demonstrated the power in bringing physical, chemical, and biological data from multiple entities together in one place. This also highlighted the critical need for public entities collecting data needed for management to open their data and to unearth their historical data sets so that future crises can be informed by lessons from the past.