



15 Day Continuation Notice

Re: § 132.6 Dungeness Crab Trap Surface Gear Limitations and Gear Removal Time.

August 10, 2018

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has proposed amendments to the addition of Section 132.6, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) published the proposed regulations in the California Regulatory Notice Register, File No. Z2018-0529-02: 893. A Department hearing was held on July 31, 2018.

This 15-day continuation period allows for additional public comments concerning only the proposed amendments to the regulatory language (removal is indicated by the strikeout over underline, and addition by underline) not on the aspects of the proposal that were already noticed during the initial 45-day period. The comments and respective department responses from the 45-day period, and comments with responses from the 15-day period, will be published with the Final Statement of Reasons (FSOR). At the public meeting of the Dungeness crab task force (task force) held June 5-6, industry raised concerns with the removal and on board storage of the extra line and trailer buoys when moving large numbers of traps from deep to shallow depth ranges. The following changes to the proposed regulatory text of §132.6 address the task force recommendation submitted to the Department during the public comment period and concerns related to the measurement of the surface line:

- Subsection (a)(1), limit the addition of trailer buoys from the main buoy to “No more than two trailer buoys” regardless of depth.
- Subsection (c), specify that the maximum length of line is to be measured “between the front end of the main buoy to the tail end of the last trailer buoy.”

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments on the proposed changes to the Department. All written comments must be received by the Department via mail, or e-mail, no later than **5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2018**, to the contact as follows:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attn: Christy Juhasz, Environmental Scientist
5355 Skylane Blvd., Suite B
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Email: Christy.Juhasz@wildlife.ca.gov

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Department of Fish and Wildlife website at: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations.

Sincerely,

Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Regional Manager

Revised Regulatory Language

Section 132.6, Title 14, CCR, is added to read:

§ 132.6 Dungeness Crab Trap Surface Gear Limitations and Gear Removal Time.

(a) Pursuant to Sections 8276.5 and 9005 of the Fish and Game Code, every trap or string of traps shall be marked with a buoy, known hereafter as the main buoy, and such buoy shall be tagged with a Dungeness crab biennial buoy tag. Any additional surface buoys attached after the main buoy shall be limited to the following:

~~(1) No more than one trailer buoy for traps deployed at depths equal to or less than 210 feet (35 fathoms).~~

~~(2) No more than two trailer buoys for traps deployed at depths greater than 210 feet (35 fathoms).~~

(1) No more than two trailer buoys.

~~(3)~~(2) One end marker buoy that shall not extend more than three feet in length behind the last trailer buoy.

(b) End marker buoys shall be less than five inches in diameter and are not considered trailer buoys.

~~(c) The length of the line that is attached between the last trailer buoy and either the main buoy or the vertical line attached to the trap shall not exceed:~~

(c) The distance between the front end of the main buoy to the tail end of the last trailer buoy shall not exceed:

(1) A maximum of 24 feet when the trap is deployed at depths equal to or less than 210 feet (35 fathoms).

(2) A maximum of 36 feet when the trap is deployed at depths greater than 210 feet (35 fathoms).

(d) It is unlawful to leave any Dungeness crab buoys, lines, or traps in state waters after the end of the Dungeness crab fishing season. All Dungeness crab traps shall be removed from state waters by 11:59 pm on the last day of the season as set forth in sections 8276 and 8277 of the Fish and Game Code.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 702, 7059, 8276, and 8277 Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 7056, 7059, 8276, 8277, 9002.5, 9004, 9005, and 9007, Fish and Game Code.