

REGULATORY TEXT

Section 132.7, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read as follows:

§ 132.7 Lost or Abandoned Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Program.

[No changes to subsections (a) through (e)]

(f) Trap Gear Retrieval Permit Operations.

A Designated Retriever may retrieve lost or abandoned trap gear in an area starting 15 calendar days after the commercial Dungeness crab fishing season closes in that area pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 8276 and until September 30 of that year. A Designated Retriever may also retrieve lost or abandoned trap gear during a period of time in which the Director restricts the take of Dungeness crab pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 8276.1 or implementing regulations, if the Director authorizes retrieval operations during that time period. At no time may retrieval operations occur in an area open to commercial Dungeness crab fishing or during a designated pre-season gear setting period. Only trap gear with a Dungeness crab buoy tag issued by the department pursuant to Section 8276.5 of the Fish and Game Code may be retrieved. To the extent practicable, any lines or buoys attached to the trap shall also be retrieved.

(1) Each Designated Retriever shall keep in his/her possession a legible copy of the Retrieval Permit he/she is operating under that identifies the Designated Retriever and their associated vessel while conducting retrieval operations. At least one person aboard the vessel needs to be a Designated Retriever.

(2) Retrieved trap gear shall be stored at a secure location until collected by the Responsible Vessel Permitholder or disposed of by the Retrieval Permittee pursuant to subsection (h).

(3) Designated Retrievers and Retrieval Permittees shall, to the extent possible, prevent any additional physical damage to retrieved trap gear. Buoy tags, crab trap tags, and any other markings may not be removed from the gear until it has been documented in the Trap Gear Retrieval Logbook and processed pursuant to subsection (h).

(4) The department may enter and conduct unannounced visits to inspect facilities and vessels of a Retrieval Permittee or a Designated Retriever used as part of the trap retrieval operation. The department may also inspect, audit, or copy at any time any permit, license, book, or record required to be kept under these regulations.

(5) A Designated Retriever who observes lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab trap gear located in an area where take of Dungeness crab by trap is prohibited shall inform the department Law Enforcement Division through the CalTIP Program at 1-888-334-CalTIP (888-334-2258). A Designated

Retriever may not retrieve such trap gear without written or verbal authorization from the department Law Enforcement Division.

. . . *[No changes to subsections (g) through (j)]*

Note: Authority cited: Section 9002.5, Fish and Game Code

Reference: Sections 7852.2, 8276, 8276.5, 9002.5 and 9006, Fish and Game Code