

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

LOST OR ABANDONED COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB TRAP GEAR RETRIEVAL PROGRAM



WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Removing lost or abandoned trap gear is an important way to reduce marine life entanglement risk during the summer months when large numbers of whales are present off California.
- Lost or abandoned trap gear is a navigational hazard and a source of marine debris.
- Program participants are entitled to compensation for retrieved gear.



WHO CAN APPLY FOR A PERMIT?

- Sport or commercial fishing associations with a written charter or governing board.
- Charitable organizations.
- Local government agencies (e.g. ports and harbor districts).

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- Up to 10 experienced commercial trap fishermen and vessels can be listed on the permit and conduct on-the-water retrieval operations after the commercial Dungeness crab season closes.
- Gear can be retrieved starting July 15 or July 30 depending on management area. Earlier retrieval may be authorized if CDFW closes the commercial Dungeness crab season due to elevated marine life entanglement risk.
- Retrieval efforts are documented on a logbook which is submitted to CDFW.
- Permittee contacts Dungeness crab vessel permit holder identified on the trap's buoy tag and offers to return the gear in exchange for reasonable compensation.
- If compensation is not provided, Permittee keeps the gear and can request reimbursement from CDFW.

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY?

- Permit applications are available now on the [License and Revenue Branch webpage](#).
- Identify up to 10 Designated Retrievers and vessels.
- Select an appropriate contact person for the permit.
- Complete and submit the [permit application form](#), associated documents, and required fee.

Questions? Contact WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov