

California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group) Management Recommendation Form to inform the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Working Group Discussion Date: May 13, 2021

Submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director for the Risk Assessment Mitigation Program Section 132.8 Title 14, California Code of Regulations to assess marine life entanglement risk in the Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery.

The Working Group considered Available Data provided by CDFW and scientific advisors, as well as an initial CDFW assessment and the preliminary Management Action recommendation.

Working Group Response to CDFW's Preliminary Management Action Recommendation

Eight of the Working Group opposed CDFW's recommendation of a Fishery Closure for Zones 1-6. Two members supported and the remainder of 7 members were neutral. An Alternative Management Action Recommendation was then put forward for consideration by the full Working Group (below).

Working Group Recommendation Option 1:

Management Action: Depth Constraint in Zones 1-5 shoreward of 30-fathoms and a Fishery Closure for Zone 6. Electronic monitoring would be required to participate during the Depth Constraint.

Fishing Zone(s): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Implementation Date: June 1, 2021

Key Rationale based on Management Considerations: Surveys indicate whales remain offshore. Forage does not appear to be compressed based on the Habitat Compression Index. There is declining fishing effort and those that remain fishing may not have access to other fisheries, which will result in greater economic impact.

Any Limitations/Concerns: None raised

Level of Support: 13 Working Group Members supported, 2 were opposed, the remaining members in attendance were neutral.