

Experimental Permit Fishing Application for Exploratory Fishing for King Crab and other Deepwater Crab in California (Updated: 8/12/2022)

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

Provide contact information for key participants, including the applicant and, if applicable, the entity administrator and any authorized agent(s). If any key participant does not have a Get Outdoors ID (GO ID) or commercial fishing license (CFL) number, they must provide information for CDFW to create a new customer profile pursuant to subsection 91(c)(2)(A)(1), Title 14, CCR.

1. Applicant

Name	Johnathan Hillstrand
Title and Affiliation	Captain/Owner
Mailing Address	[Mailing address omitted]
Email Address	[Email address omitted]
Telephone Number	[Telephone number omitted]
GOID or CFL Number	[GOID/CFL number omitted]
If no GOID or CFL number:	Please provide the following information.
Residence Address (if different from mailing)	[Residence address omitted]
Date of Birth	[Date of birth omitted]
Height	[Height omitted]
Eye Color	[Eye color omitted]
Hair Color	[Hair color omitted]
Weight	[Weight omitted]
Gender	[Gender omitted]
Personal Identification	A copy of DMV ID, passport, military ID, or other acceptable form of identification as listed in <u>subsection 700.4(c), Title 14, CCR.</u>

2. Entity Administrator

Name	Andrew Hillstrand
Title and Affiliation	Owner/Manager
Mailing Address	[Mailing address omitted]
Email Address	[Email address omitted]
Telephone Number	[Telephone number omitted]
GOID or CFL Number	[GOID/CFL number omitted]
If no GOID or CFL number:	Please provide the following information.
Residence Address (if different from mailing)	[Residence address omitted]
Date of Birth	[Date of birth omitted]
Height	[Height omitted]
Eye Color	[Eye color omitted]
Hair Color	[Hair color omitted]
Weight	[Weight omitted]
Gender	[Gender omitted]
Personal Identification	A copy of DMV ID, passport, military ID, or other acceptable form of identification as listed in <u>subsection 700.4(c), Title 14, CCR.</u>

3. Authorized Agent(s) – NA

B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. Describe the purpose and goals of the proposed project, including how the project meets or is consistent with the policies of Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 7050.

The purpose of this project is to explore the potential of a new commercial fishery for king and other deepwater crab species in California. The project would test and evaluate the feasibility and sustainability of exploratory fishing activities to inform future development of a commercial king crab fishery, and is consistent with the following goals of Section 7050 of the FGC:

- Allow and encourage activities and uses of marine living resources that are sustainable.
- Recognize the importance of sustainable commercial fishing to the economy and the culture of California.
- Support and promote scientific research on marine ecosystems to better inform management decisions.

2. Provide a list of proposed project activities that are prohibited under current state fishing laws or regulations (cite the specific section number(s), if known), and the reasons to justify authorization (exemption) of those activities under the EFP.

We propose to apply for an EFP to conduct exploratory fishing activities that are currently prohibited under FGC Section 9011 (proposed fishing gear does not meet the design specifications described in FGC subdivision 9011(a)(2)) or FGC subdivision 9011(b)(2)) and Section 126, Title 14, CCR (proposed take exceeds the 25-lb possession and landing limit for species in the family Lithodidae).

C. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Respond to each of the following statements by providing relevant qualifications to demonstrate the ability of the applicant and, if applicable, other key participants to perform the necessary duties and responsibilities to carry out the proposed project. PLEASE NOTE: If any scientific or technical assistance is requested of CDFW, pre-application consultation is required.

1. Lead and provide supervisory oversight for all activities of the permit under the authorizations, standard terms, and special conditions.

Captain Johnathan Hillstrand will conduct the main fishery operations and oversee all paperwork requirements to satisfy the EFP permit requirements. Andrew Hillstrand will also assist in all paperwork and coordinating with CDFW to provide all paperwork necessary to CDFW and all other State and Federal entities.

2. Experience in identification, methods, and protocols specific to the requested species listed under [Section E.2.](#) of this document.

We have over 40 years of fishing experience identifying crab species and fishing crab as well as other species in the State of Alaska. Areas we have fished range from the Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet. Over that time, we have worked

with all enforcement agencies such as the US Coast Guard, NMFS, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We have years of experience working with federal Logbooks and relevant observer programs to collect data for the fisheries we participate in.

This experience has also made us very sufficient in identifying species of crab.

We will also have an Observer on the vessel or a CDFW representative if they so choose to identify the targeted species as well as document any other species, if so required.

3. Obtain all appropriate authorizations and oversee quality control measures to assure conformance to the specified standards or requirements (e.g., take appropriate measures to ensure, promote, and facilitate compliance).

If approved for the EFP, we will work with CDFW to make sure all the appropriate licenses, permits, and authorization are obtained, including:

- Commercial fishing license
- General trap permit

4. Train all persons operating under the permit.

Current Crew has numerous years working on our vessel with all duties of measuring sorting and bringing in the legal crab required. We will consult with CDFW before EFP starts to go over all requirements to help crew work in an efficient manner to document crab and all other species.

5. Coordinate field activities and communicate field findings with CDFW Marine Region.

Captain (or Entity Administrator) will use Sat Phone, Cell phone and email communications with CDFW's Marine Region and Law Enforcement Division to coordinate field activities and report field findings as required by CDFW.

6. Collect, analyze, and transmit data gathered under the EFP to CDFW Marine Region.

We have over 40 years of fishing experience fishing crab and other species in the state of Alaska. Areas we have fished range from the Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet. Over that time, we have worked with all enforcement agencies such as the US Coast Guard, NMFS, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We have years of experience working with federal Logbooks and relevant observer programs to collect data for the fisheries we participate in.

We will use Sat Phone, Cell phone and email communications with CDFW's Marine Region and Law Enforcement Division to fulfill all EFP requirements, including transmittal of fishing and landing data and reports.

D. PERMIT APPLICATION TYPE

1. Select desired permit tier.

- Tier 1 (For purposes other than exploratory fishing)
- Tier 2 (For purposes other than exploratory fishing with assistance from CDFW)
- Tier 3 (For the purpose of exploratory fishing)
- Tier 4 (For the purpose of exploratory fishing with assistance from CDFW)

2. Request [permit fee reduction option](#) consideration.

- Yes No

Buoy line marking research. If approved, this option would support testing buoy line marking by gathering information on efficacy and durability of marking lines for fixed gear fisheries. Line marking is a tool that can aid in identifying entanglements to state and fishery origin and may be used to exclude or eliminate fisheries from confirmed entanglements. Requirements for buoy line marking to be determined and specified by CDFW.

3. Has pre-application consultation with CDFW taken place with respect to this proposal? (Required for a Tier 2 EFP, Tier 4 EFP, or permit fee reduction option)

- Yes No

If yes, attach a copy of the pre-application consultation summary letter or provide the name and contact information of CDFW staff with whom the applicant consulted:

A pre-application consultation meeting occurred on April 25, 2022, with CDFW Marine Region's Marine Invertebrate Management Project staff members, including Tom Mason, Christy Juhasz, Marina Som, Ryan Bartling, Steve Reinecke, Joanna Grebel, Sonke Mastrup [staff contact information omitted].

E. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe the proposal and any other relevant details, including:

1. A description of the experimental design and research plan, including specific procedures for data collection, storage, processing, and analysis; and a timeline for implementing the project, including, if applicable, when compensation fishing is expected to occur.

We are proposing fishing in Northern California from Eureka down to San Francisco to avoid whales and sea turtles. We are willing to work with CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries Project to reduce the risk of interaction of fishing gear with Whales, Leatherback Sea Turtles or any other species that could be entangled by the proposed fishing gear. We are not opposed to supplement requirements by CDFW to make this EFP possible.

We propose using 40- 7'x7'x32" single pots with ¾ inch line attached to buoys that go to the Ocean floor to explore depths from 100 to 300 fathoms for possible species of King Crab off the California coast.

Pots would be set approximately 1 mile apart in a prospect string and soaked for 24 to 36 hours. Next the pots would be pulled and any species that are discovered will be measured on a large aluminum sorting table. If they are the specified crab the EFP has been granted for and they are the agreed upon size the CDFW has authorized, they will be placed in 1 of 3 large tanks on the vessel with the same temperature water as where they were pulled off the bottom from to minimize dead loss.

We would fish for approximately 1 month total with 3 to 4 trips over a period of 5 days and travel 1 day or the distance needed to reach the processor that will cook and freeze the crab in an industry standard required for resale.

Specific procedures for data collection are described below in Section E.4.

The proposed project would start in January 2023 or Fall (October or November) 2023, depending on the timing of the EFP approval and if all proper permits can be obtained with the State of California.

2. A list of target species expected to be harvested as samples or for compensation under the EFP, including anticipated amounts (weight or number) and proposed use (e.g., bait, sell, personal use, or other (e.g., research or tag and release)). [Add rows to the table below as needed.](#)

Species Name	Weight or Number	Proposed Use
Spiny King Crab	2,500 animals (up to 1,500 lbs)	sell

California King Crab	2,500 animals (up to 3,500 lbs)	sell
Spiky King Crab	2,500 animals (up to 1,500 lbs)	sell
Hair Crab	2,500 animals (up to 1,500 lbs)	sell
Deep Sea Spider	2,500 animals (up to 1,500 lbs)	sell
Flat Legged Spider Crab	2,500 animals (up to 1,500 lbs)	sell

3. A list of species expected to be taken incidental to fishing conducted under the EFP, including anticipated amounts (weight or number), proposed use (e.g., bait, sell, personal use, discard, or other (e.g., research or tag and release)), and a description of any measures that will be used to reduce incidental catch mortality.

Non-target species (finfish or invert) will not be retained (i.e., released at sea).

Measure to reduce incidental catch: As described in Section E.6, each pot would have an escapement webbed-panel that lets out 4-inch or smaller crab and other non-target species so as to not retain them in the first place.

4. A description of the mechanisms that will be utilized to ensure that any proposed harvest limit for target and incidentally caught species are not exceeded and are accurately tracked or monitored (e.g., at sea fisheries observers, electronic monitoring, or other reporting method); and, if applicable, a description of the vessel's capacity to accommodate an onboard observer.

Every pot that is pulled is counted and running totals are kept of targeted species and discards can also be counted and documented on every pot. The pot will then be stacked on deck of vessel and moved to a new location for further research. Catch data will be recorded in a manner and format specified by CDFW.

CDFW can require an observer on board the vessel at all times if they choose, or part of the time. 1 observer or CDFW representative will have a bunk and survival suit as well as be fed until we disembark from the program.

5. A description of any potential impacts on existing fisheries, habitats, or possible incidental interactions with threatened, endangered, or protected species (e.g., sea turtles, marine mammals, and birds) that could occur as a result of the project.

No impacts to birds are anticipated.

In speaking with CDFW, Humpback whales and blue whales are a concern as they transit the proposed project area. We would keep the amount of line at a bare minimum to sit on the bottom and not have excessive amounts to tangle whales. Any impact to habitat would be minimal as we are only using 40 pots and they sit on the bottom and only make a disturbance when they land and are pulled.

CDFW will identify appropriate areas and times to fish to minimize the risk of entanglement with the proposed fishing gear and to avoid crab molting periods.

6. The type and amount of gear to be used, including gear specifications and design, and, if applicable, a description of any measures and/or devices that will be used to reduce bycatch. If the project involves gear modifications or other gear innovations, the description must include the means by which CDFW staff can locate, retrieve, and inspect the proposed gear.

As described in Section E.1, we propose using 40- 7'x7'x 32" single pots with ¾" line with up to 10- 33 fathom shots to fish out to 300 fathoms of depth (as many as are required to reach the depth we are trying to achieve). The top shot of line is a sinking line attached to buoys that go from the surface to the pot on the bottom. The sinking shot is designed to stop floating line at surface to prevent entanglement with marine animals.

The main diver buoy that attaches to the sinking line is a green round buoy (Model A3, 17-inch diameter) and an orange bullet-shaped buoy (Model LD2, 11.5-inch diameter, 24-inch length) is the trailer buoy.

Pots have an 18-inch opening for escapement (opens at least 11" wide) when biodegradable twine (Size No. 30) disintegrates after 30 days in the water, in case pot is lost (destruct device). Each pot has a web escapement panel that is 32" tall and 40" wide in a diamond configuration where each edge of the diamond measures 7" and each diamond measures 9" stretched diagonal length to allow fish and smaller crab to climb or swim out. We would try and avoid any areas where heavy whale activity is happening to lessen the chance of entanglements. When gear is retrieved, it will be stacked on the deck of vessel and set out in a new area to cover new grounds. We will follow any CDFW requirements to achieve best results they are looking for.

7. The location and timing of the project. The description must include trip specifications, such as fishing depth, anticipated number of trips, expected trip duration, and estimated number of hauls and average soak time (for fixed gear) or estimated number of tows/sets to be made per day, and estimated duration and speed per tow (for mobile gear). For project vessels listed in [Section E](#). of this document, the description must also identify any fishing activity that is expected to occur on the same trip as the project for purposes other than those provided by the EFP (e.g., fishing before and/or after the EFP activities).

For the first part of test fishing, the project location would encompass an area from Eureka to San Francisco (charts of the proposed areas are attached). Based on project findings, the proposed exploratory fishing activities may expand into areas farther south of San Francisco. Any proposed expansion of the fishing area or increase in fishing effort and amount of take will require additional review by CDFW and approval by the California Fish and Game Commission.

We will share info with CDFW of the areas along the coast that would allow us to explore but still be able to unload any targeted crab we caught at a processor. Right now, the processor we are looking to use is Southern Cal Seafood in Royal Oaks, California as one possibility.

Trip specifications, such as fishing depth, anticipated number of trips, expected trip duration, and soak time are described in Section E.1.

F. PROJECT VESSELS (IF APPLICABLE)

Provide vessel information. Using the table below, complete a separate entry for each project vessel to be authorized by the EFP. For any vessel that will be used in commercial fishing activity related to the permit, the commercial boat registration number issued pursuant to [FGC Section 7881](#) is required. For any vessel that will not be used in commercial fishing activity related to the permit, the commercial boat registration number issued pursuant to [FGC Section 7881](#) or a copy of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Documentation is required. If there is no Certificate of Documentation for the vessel, a copy of the vessel's state registration is required.

Vessel Name	F/V Time Bandit
Boat Registration Number or Documentation	[Boat registration number or documentation omitted]
Owner Name	Time Bandit LLC
Owner Address	[Owner address omitted]

Owner Telephone Number	[Owner telephone number omitted]
Operator Name	Johnathan Hillstrand
Operator Address	[Operator address omitted]
Operator Telephone Number	[Operator telephone number omitted]

G. SIGNATURE

X DocuSigned by:
Andrew Hillstrand 8/13/2022
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Signature of Applicant Date

H. APPLICATION FEE PAYMENT

Please see [CDFW's EFP Program page](#) for further information.