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## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation  
Since 1870*

### **CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1022 of the Fish and Game Code (FGC) and Section 91, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), on November 4, 2022 the California Fish and Wildlife (Department) transmitted an Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) application to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). The EFP application had been submitted to the Department from Bart Chadwick to test pop-up gear (also called “ropeless gear”) in the California Dungeness crab fishery to reduce the number of vertical lines and avoid potential risk of marine life entanglement.

The EFP application seeks approval of a Tier 2 EFP to test the commercial use of Sub Sea Sonics’ timed- and acoustic release pop-up gear systems in conjunction with Longsoaker Fishing System’s Guardian line management system in the Dungeness crab fishery to collect information to inform future alternative gear certification under the Department’s Risk Assessment Mitigation Program (RAMP) (proposed project). The proposed project would occur in commercial Dungeness crab fishing zones off the coast of California, in water depths up to 250 feet. The proposed project would include between 3 to 10 participating fishers (authorized agents). Each fisher would test up to 50 units of the proposed system. Fishers would have the option to fish single traps or string up to 20 traps per line. The pop-up gear systems would be tracked and monitoring using a virtual gear marking application (e.g., Trap Timer) and a Pelagic Data System solar logger.

The proposed project is anticipated to span across a total of four years. Testing would occur year-round; however, Dungeness crab would be retained/sold during the open season only. Other than finfish or invertebrate species that may be retained pursuant to current Dungeness crab fishing rules and regulations, all non-target fish would be released.

The applicant requests exemptions from the following provisions in FGC and/or Title 14, CCR:

- FGC Section 9005 (surface buoy marking requirement)
- FGC subdivision 9012(b) (requirement for removal of gear at close of season)
- Subsection 132.6(d), Title 14, CCR (RAMP prohibitions)
- Section 132.8, Title 14, CCR (single trap per line requirement)

Pursuant to subsection 91(d), Title 14, CCR, the Department accepted the application for technical review pursuant to subsection 91(d)(2), Title 14, CCR. Information provided in the application will be used by the Department to determine an appropriate permit tier for the proposed project and to develop a recommendation for the Commission's consideration, including any permit special conditions. The Department's technical review and recommendation is due to the Commission within 60 days of the transmittal date, unless the Department notifies the Commission that a time extension for review is necessary.

Written comments and information on matters addressed in this notice and relevant to the Department's technical review of the accepted application may be submitted to Marina Som, Acting EFP Coordinator, at [EFP@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:EFP@wildlife.ca.gov). As soon as the Department's recommendation is available, but not less than 30 days before the hearing on this application, a notice will be published on the Commission's website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP> and sent to interested individuals providing information on the opportunity for public comment and published on the Commission's website. Please visit [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov) for additional information.

November 14, 2022

California Fish and Game Commission

Melissa Miller-Henson  
Executive Director