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Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

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NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF RECOMMENDATION AND CONSIDERATION OF EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMIT MAJOR AMENDMENT

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 29, 2023, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) received the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) recommendation regarding the Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) amendment request from Bart Chadwick to amend the EFP that was approved by the Commission in June 2023 (EFP tracking #2022-03). Subsection 91(k)(2) allows for EFP holder amendments to the approved EFP. Major amendments to the EFP that exceed allowances placed on the permit concerning subsection 91(k)(1)(A), and are subject to the same department review, public notice, commission action, and department issuance procedures in subsection 91(d)(2) through (g).

The current EFP, as written, is to test the commercial use of Sub Sea Sonics timed and acoustic release pop-up gear in the California Dungeness crab fishery to reduce the number of vertical lines and avoid potential risk of marine life entanglement. The requested major amendment to EFP #2022-03 is to: 1) increase the number of authorized agents and vessels from 10 to 25; 2) increase the maximum number of traps per string from 5 to 20; 3) increase the maximum number of traps per vessel from 50 to the number of traps authorized by each vessel's permitted trap tier; and 4) include the hagfish fishery in the testing of and the use of timed- and acoustic-release pop-up gear. The Commission has scheduled the amendment for consideration at its February 14-15, 2024 meeting in Sacramento, California.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the EFP amendment with the following special conditions as specified on form DFW 1103: 1) increase the number of authorized agents and vessels from 10 to 20; 2) increase the maximum number of traps per string from 5 to 10; 3) increase the maximum number of traps per vessel from 50 to 150; and 4) include the hagfish fishery in the testing of and the use of timed- and acoustic-release pop-up gear. The proposed special conditions are necessary for research purposes and the conservation and management of marine resources and the environment, pursuant to subsection 91(i), Title 14, CCR.

The EFP amendment, Department recommendation (DFW 1103), and other information in the records before the Commission are posted on the Commission's website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP>.

Melissa Miller-Henson
January 12, 2024
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Written comments on the EFP amendment and/or Department recommendation must be received by February 9, 2024 at 12:00 PM and may be emailed to fgc@fgc.ca.gov or mailed to California Fish and Game Commission, Attn: EFP, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, California, 94244-2090. Oral comments will be accepted at the Commission's February 14-15, 2024 meeting.

January 12, 2024

Fish and Game Commission

Melissa Miller Henson
Executive Director