



At A Glance: Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Program

Document Scope

The following is a summary of key responsibilities for Designated Retrievers and Retrieval Permittees who have been issued a CDFW Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Permit. This document does not supersede obligations as defined in [Section 132.7, Title 14, CCR](#) or any forms incorporated by reference. CDFW recommends reviewing this document in conjunction with the regulations, DFW 1059 form, and the current Compliance Guide.

Reminders for Designated Retrievers

- You can only pull gear which has a commercial Dungeness crab buoy tag. You cannot remove gear without a buoy tag under this program.
- You must completely and accurately fill out items 1-12 and item 16 on the Trap Gear Retrieval Logbook (DFW 1059) prior to any person disembarking from the vessel.
- Gear can only be recovered during the designated gear recovery season, which starts 15 days after the scheduled close of the commercial Dungeness crab fishing season and ends September 30, unless earlier retrieval is authorized by the CDFW Director.
- You must keep a copy of the Retrieval Permit on board the vessel.
- To the extent possible, you must prevent any additional damage to retrieved gear.
- It is imperative that you understand and follow all of the instructions listed on the Trap Gear Retrieval Logbook (DFW 1059). Failure to comply with all requirements will result in Retrieval Permittees not being eligible for reimbursement from CDFW.

Reminders for Retrieval Permittees

- You are required to initiate contact with the Responsible Vessel Permitholder within one week of the trap's retrieval. Contact must be by one of the following methods: text, email, or certified letter. The initial contact must include the following: your contact information, the number of traps retrieved, the date the traps were retrieved, and a statement that the traps were retrieved under Section 132.7, Title 14, CCR. You must maintain a record of this contact for one calendar year.

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- Once gear is recovered, it must be stored in a secure location until collected by the Responsible Vessel Permitholder or disposed of pursuant to Section 132.7(h).
- To the extent possible, you must prevent any additional damage to the retrieved gear.
- A certified mail letter must be sent to all Responsible Vessel Permitholders with unpaid Retriever Trap Fees by October 6th. The letter must include the following: your contact information, all traps with outstanding Retriever Trap Fees, the date the traps were retrieved, and a statement that the traps were retrieved under Section 132.7, Title 14, CCR. You must maintain a record of the letter and the certified mail receipt for one calendar year.
- When returning recovered gear to the Responsible Vessel Permitholder, you must produce two copies of a receipt which includes the time, date, and fee paid. You must keep a copy of the receipt for one calendar year.
- You are required to mail the complete, original logbook forms to CDFW between October 22 and November 1 (or the next business day).
- If requesting CDFW reimbursement for any retrieved traps, you must include a copy of the certified mail letter and all attached buoy tags when submitting the logbooks. CDFW also highly recommends you include a copy of the certified mail receipt and documentation indicating you complied with the initial contact requirement to facilitate processing of the reimbursement request.