

## **Frequently Asked Questions related to the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) Impact Scoring**

### **1. What are RAMP Impact Scores?**

- Impact Scores are values representing the number of entanglements and severity of the injuries caused by Confirmed Entanglements of Actionable Species in California Commercial Dungeness Crab Gear and Confirmed Entanglements in Unknown Fishing Gear, as defined in the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program Regulations, 14 CCR § 132.8.

### **2. What Impact Score is assigned to a Confirmed Entanglement in California Commercial Dungeness Crab Gear?**

| Species                   | Score |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Humpback Whale            | 0.75  |
| Humpback Whale (deceased) | 1     |
| Leatherback Sea Turtle    | 1     |
| Blue Whale                | 1     |

### **3. What Impact Score is assigned to a Confirmed Entanglement in Unknown Fishing Gear?**

| Species                   | Score |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Humpback Whale            | 0.38  |
| Humpback Whale (deceased) | 0.5   |
| Leatherback Sea Turtle    | 0.5   |
| Blue Whale                | 0.5   |

### **4. What is the Impact Score Calculation?**

- The Impact Score Calculation is the sum of the Impact Scores for each Actionable Species over a designated time period.

### **5. Over what time periods does CDFW report the Impact Score?**

- CDFW reports the Impact Score for the current fishing season, the current calendar year, the past two calendar years and the 3-Year Rolling Average.

**6. Is the Impact Score calculated separately for each RAMP Fishing Zone or the Central vs Northern Management Areas?**

- No, the Impact Score is calculated across all Fishing Zones and management areas because it is a state-managed fishery.

**7. How does the Impact Score effect the management of the commercial and recreational California Commercial Dungeness crab fishery?**

- If a Confirmed Entanglement causes the Impact Score Calculation to exceed the thresholds defined in the RAMP regulations, then the Director shall consult with NOAA and the Working Group and implement a management action which may include closure or delays of the fishery.

**8. What Impact Score Calculations require the Director to take a Management Action?**

- If the average total annual Impact Score Calculation in the current or last two calendar years exceeds the limits below, then the director must consult with NOAA and the Working Group and implement a management action.

| Species                 | Impact Score Calculation |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Humpback Whales         | > 2                      |
| Blue Whales             | > 1                      |
| Leatherback Sea Turtles | ≥ 1                      |

**9. What Impact Score Calculation for humpback whales would result in a fishery closure?**

- If the Impact Score Calculation for humpback whales during a current fishing season reaches three or more, then the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the season. This is a non-discretionary Management Action required when three or more is reached.

**10. What Impact Score Calculations for leatherback sea turtles and blue whales result in a fishery closure?**

- The current RAMP regulations do not define an Impact Score Calculation that would result in the closure of the California Dungeness crab fishery. However, a single Confirmed Entanglement of either species can result in the Director taking a management action or a fishery closure.

#### **11. Can Impact Scores be revised?**

- CDFW can revise the Impact Score if NOAA provides a final determination of the injury or mortality pursuant to the NMFS Policy Directive 02-238-01 Process for Injury Determinations or if additional evidence about the gear type becomes available.

#### **12. Where can the most recent Impact Scores be found?**

- The most recent Impact Score calculations can be found on the Whale Safe Fisheries page, under the Risk Assessment tab, in the most recent Available Data document.