

# California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group) Management Recommendation to inform the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Working Group Discussion Date: November 15, 2023**

## Working Group Recommendation: Recreational (Fishing Zone 2)

There was broad support from the Working Group for Marine Region's preliminary management recommendations for both the commercial fishery season delay and recreational crab trap prohibition. The Working Group also provided a recommendation regarding the recreational fishery for Fishing Zone 2.

The Working Group recommends the Department temporarily prohibit the use of recreational crab traps in Fishing Zone 2, effective nine days after the Director's Declaration (on or around November 26, 2023). By prohibiting recreational crab traps in Fishing Zone 2, entanglement risk would be further reduced by decreasing the number of vertical lines that pose an entanglement risk to migrating whales. Furthermore, this recommendation would better align the commercial and recreational fishery management actions by prohibiting all crab traps. This recommendation received broad support from the Working Group.