



**Experimental Fishing Permit No.**

**Revision Date:**

**MARINE FISHERIES: EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 1022 and Section 91, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), the Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) holder is authorized to conduct experimental fishing activities according to the requirements of the EFP approved by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department).

EFP Holder/Entity Administrator Name: **Craig Thomsson** [REDACTED] **EFP Holder)**  
**Rachel Thomsson** [REDACTED] **Entity Administrator)**

EFP Holder Address: [REDACTED]

Entity Administrator Address: [REDACTED]

Authorized Agent Name: **See authorized agent list on Page 3**

Authorized Agent Address: **See authorized agent list on Page 3**

Vessel Name and ID #: **See authorized agent list on Page 3**

Description of authorized activity:

Testing and commercial use of hoop nets in the California Dungeness crab fishery. The experimental fishing activities may only be conducted under the following conditions.

**STANDARD TERMS**

These standard terms shall apply to all persons or vessels conducting activities under the EFP.

1. The permit shall be operated only on the vessels named on this form, if applicable. Either the EFP holder or the authorized agent must be aboard the vessel when activities are being conducted under this permit, and both are responsible and accountable for meeting the requirements and limits of this permit.
2. Pursuant to FGC Section 7857(d), the EFP holder or authorized agent shall have a valid copy of the Department issued EFP attached to a signed copy of this form in possession when activities are being conducted under this permit.
3. All persons conducting activities under an EFP must comply with all appropriate state and federal fishing laws and regulations, including but not limited to those relating to protected species, minimum size limits, and seasons or areas closed to fishing that are not otherwise exempted by the permit (see special conditions).



- 4. The EFP holder and authorized agent shall cooperate with the Department by allowing personnel designated by the Department to board the fishing vessel on any fishing trip (if applicable) or enter a place of business operated by the EFP holder or authorized agent under this permit, to retrieve, observe, or inspect any logbook, records, data, equipment, procedures, or catch throughout the duration of the permit.
- 5. The EFP holder or authorized agent shall provide Department staff with a 24-hour notice prior to every fishing trip. The contact information for Department staff will be provided for this purpose at the time of permit issuance.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

As set forth in subsection 91(i), Title 14, CCR, special conditions may be placed on this permit for research purposes and the conservation and management of marine resources and the environment (see following page).

As set forth in subsection 91(k), Title 14, CCR, special conditions may be amended or repealed as necessary for research purposes and the conservation and management of marine resources and the environment.

**RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The permit is not valid until the EFP holder has certified by their signature below that they have: 1) read and understand the standard terms and special conditions of the permit; 2) unless otherwise specified in special conditions, paid the appropriate fees specified in Section 704, Title 14, CCR; and 3) returned a signed copy of this form to the Department.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all standard terms and special conditions of this permit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
EFP Holder Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Received by License and Revenue Branch (LRB)

Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Experimental Fishing Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
By: LRB

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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**Authorization and Special Conditions**

List of approved special conditions, names and addresses of any additional authorized agents, and/or names and identification number of any additional authorized vessels.

Authorized Agents and Vessels

1. This EFP is valid only for the authorized agents and vessels named below. The Department may allow up to a maximum of 10 authorized agents and ten vessels for this EFP, as it deems necessary for research purposes.

a. Authorized Agent Name and Address

- 1. Jacob Emerling [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 2. James Karlonas [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 3. Dan Fugere [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 4. Bob Monckton [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 5. Justin Monckton [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 6. Patrick Long [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- 7. Joseph Thornburgh [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b. Authorized Project Vessel

- 1. F/V Sara Brent [REDACTED]
- 2. F/V Humbug [REDACTED]
- 3. F/V Pamela Sue [REDACTED]
- 4. F/V Judy Kay [REDACTED]
- 5. F/V Ava Mae [REDACTED]
- 6. F/V Long Gone [REDACTED]
- 7. F/V New Horizon [REDACTED]

- 2. All parties (as specified in 1, above) operating under the authority of this permit must be informed of and agree to abide by all standard terms and special conditions of this permit.
- 3. The addition of any authorized agents shall be approved by the Department.



## General

4. The authorized agent and any person who assists the authorized agent shall possess a valid commercial fishing license issued pursuant to FGC Sections 7850 and 8280.1 prior to engaging in any commercial fishing operations authorized by this permit.
5. The authorized agent shall possess a valid commercial boat registration issued pursuant to FGC Section 7881, for the vessel named above and display the Department Boat Registration numbers in plain sight on each side of the vessel pursuant to FGC Section 7880.
6. All authorized agents shall only participate in one EFP per fishing trip when participating in multiple EFPs.
7. No other EFP or commercial fishing activities shall take place on the same trip as this EFP, unless specifically authorized by this EFP.

## Authorized Species, Take, and Landing Requirements

8. Authorized agents may retain, possess, and land Dungeness crab when the statutory commercial season is open in that Fishing Zone. No Dungeness crab less than six and one-quarter (6¼) inches in breadth, and no female Dungeness crab, may be taken, possessed, bought, or sold. Dungeness crab shall be measured by the shortest distance through the body from edge of shell to edge of shell directly from front of points (lateral spines). All catch shall be sorted for sex and size immediately upon being brought to the surface.
9. All incidental catch will be returned to the ocean immediately to reduce impacts to bycatch.
10. All electronic fish tickets must state EFP number recorded in the “State Permit #” field, the number of individual crabs recorded under the “# of Fish” field, and species of crab specified in the “Notes”.

## Allowable Fishing Area and Time of Year

11. Hoop nets may only be placed in the water between the Sonoma/Mendocino County line (38° 46.125' N. latitude) and Point Conception (34° 27' N. latitude), and no hoop nets shall be placed in the water seaward of 30 fathoms.
12. Dungeness crab may only be taken, possessed, or landed during the statutory season and is subject to domoic acid and quality take restrictions pursuant to FGC Section 5523, 8276, Section 8276.1(d) and 8276.2. This permit exempts the agent from an early season closure pursuant to Section 132.8, Title 14 CCR, however, take, possession, and landing are prohibited when a season is delayed pursuant to Section 132.8, Title 14 CCR.
13. Hoop nets shall only be placed in the water between sunrise and sunset and must be retrieved from the water before sunset.
14. The authorized agents must immediately suspend fishing operations and either move or remove fishing gear per Department direction in response to circumstances including elevated entanglement risk or in the event of entanglement report in the fishing or testing location. The Department will provide notice by contacting each authorized agent via the phone and/or email address provided on the EFP application.



15. Fishing operations shall abide by all applicable Essential Fish Habitat closures for bottom contact gear as described in Federal Regulations (Title 50, Part 660, Subpart F).
16. Hoop nets shall not be placed in the water in any state Marine Protected Areas pursuant to Section 632, Title 14, CCR.

### Gear Allowances, Specifications, and Marking Requirements

17. A maximum of 50 hoop nets per vessel may be used, possessed, or placed in the water per trip. This limitation shall not apply to lost or abandoned gear recovered pursuant to Sections 132.2 and 132.7, Title 14, CCR.
18. The cumulative number of hoop nets placed in the water by all vessels operating under the authority of this permit shall not exceed 500 hoop nets at any time.
19. Authorized agents shall not place in the water, retrieve, or be in possession of hoop nets and crab traps on the same vessel during the same trip or the same day, except pursuant to Sections 132.2 and 132.7, Title 14, CCR. Any crabs found in traps retrieved under the authority of those two sections shall be returned to the ocean immediately.
20. All hoop nets must comply with the requirements specified in Section 29.80, Title 14, CCR, for Dungeness crab.
21. Every hoop net shall be raised, cleaned, serviced, and emptied at intervals, not to exceed 2 hours, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Department.
22. Buoy markings shall comply with requirements specified in Section 180.5, Title 14, CCR. Only one buoy per hoop net is permitted. Every buoy shall be marked exclusively with the Identification Letters "EF" followed by the operator's commercial fishing license identification number.
  - a. Buoys that are 4 inches in diameter or greater shall have Identification Letters marked on four opposing sides.
  - b. Buoys that are smaller than 4 inches in diameter shall have Identification Letters marked on two opposing sides.
  - c. The commercial fishing license identification number shall be at least 1.5 inches in height and drawn with a line no less than 0.25-inch-thick.
  - d. The Identification Letters "EF" shall be at least 3 inches in height and drawn with a line no less than 0.25-inch-thick.
  - e. All Identification Numbers and Identification Letters on a buoy shall be clearly and distinctly marked, and in a color that contrasts with the buoy; the numbers and letters shall be applied and maintained so that they are visible and legible.
  - f. Only one fishing license identification number may be on each buoy. Participants shall ensure a buoy with their number is attached to the hoop net prior to leaving port.
23. The authorized agents will test and report on the efficacy and durability of marking lines when requested by the Department. Line may not be any combination of purple and black.



## Other Requirements

24. Hoop nets shall not be placed in the water unless a functioning electronic monitoring system is installed and used as specified by the Department. The electronic monitoring system must be a satellite or cellular based system designed to monitor location and movement of vessels using global positioning system (GPS) coordinates. The electronic monitoring system must be capable of accurately tracking and recording vessel location at a frequency of no less than once a minute without interruption during the entire fishing trip when participating in fishing operations covered under this EFP, including transiting to and from the fishing area. Vessel location data shall be uploaded automatically and made available to the Department or an authorized agent within 24 hours. Authorized agents shall grant the Department access to all data upon request.
25. At least 24 hours prior to commencing a fishing trip during which EFP activity is expected to be conducted, notice of vessel name, anticipated fishing dates, port of departure, and expected landing port shall be made via email to the Department's Law Enforcement Division (LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov) and Marine Region (WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov). Upon request from the Department, authorized agents shall coordinate with the Department and allow for inspections of hoop nets and associated gear prior to deployment or when gear is being serviced at sea.
26. Authorized agents shall follow the best practices for avoiding whale entanglement described in the attached guide. This includes fishing gear and incident reporting requirements.
27. The permittee shall provide training to Department personnel on any aspect of the permitted project on request.
28. The vessel shall be capable of safely carrying an observer when requested by the Department and provide that observer with accommodations equivalent to those provided to the captain and crew for both single and multi-day trips if multi-day trips are conducted.
29. The permittee shall adhere to the gear recovery plan as described in the EFP application. The permittee will further document all lost gear, including hoop nets, buoys and other equipment and submit to the Department at least annually. Failure to keep or submit required information may result in revocation or suspension (including non-renewal) of the permit.
30. The permittee shall comply with data reporting requirements as described in Attachment A.
31. Unless otherwise specified by the Department, the permittee shall submit reports pursuant to subsection 91(l), Title 14, CCR to the EFP Coordinator (EFP@wildlife.ca.gov) no later than 60 days after the permit expiration date.



**ATTACHMENT A**

**COMMERCIAL HOOP NET DAILY REPORT**

EFP Participant Instructions: Complete at the end of each fishing trip. **Leave a hard copy of the completed form with [REDACTED] at the time of offload.**

[REDACTED] will consolidate and scan reports to CDFW

Mandatory	
Date	
Time left port and time returned to port	
Fishing vessel name	
Latitude and longitude of hoop nets	
Number of nets placed in the water (maximum of 50)	
Number of nets retrieved. If hoop nets were lost, include note of why they were lost.	
Wind (knots) and swell height (feet)	
Depth of water (fathoms)	
Duration of soak time; e.g., ability to pull gear within 2-hour soak limit. Note any issues or concerns.	
Number of times hoop nets were reset	



Weight of hoop nets (without catch) used. If multiple hoop net types were used, list all weights.	
Estimate of number of legal crabs caught	
Entanglement (Yes/No)	
Bycatch species	
<b>Optional</b>	
Number of crabs damaged (leg or crab loss)	
Total pounds of bait used	
Total cost of bait, crew, gas, supplies vs. sale price	
Profit (Yes/No)	
Comments or observations	