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REVISED* NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF MAJOR AMENDMENT

* This notice is revised to correct the applicant's request in paragraph 2.

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 30, 2023, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) notified the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) of an accepted amendment request for a previously-issued experimental fishing permit (EFP). Pursuant to subsection 91(k)(2), Title 14, CCR, an EFP holder may request amendments to its EFP at any time during the term of the permit. Bart Chadwick (applicant) is requesting an amendment for his EFP (tracking #2022-03), which was approved by the Commission on February 9, 2023 to test timed- and acoustic-release pop-up gear in the California Dungeness crab fishery to reduce the number of vertical lines, avoid potential risk of marine life entanglement, and collect information to inform future alternative gear certification under the Risk Assessment Mitigation Program (RAMP).

The applicant has requested to amend EFP #2022-03 to: 1) increase the number of authorized agents and vessels to 25; 2) increase the maximum number of traps per string to 20; 3) increase the maximum number of traps per trip to the current permit tier limit of the fisher; and 4) include the hagfish fishery in the testing of the use of timed- and acoustic-release pop-up gear. Currently pop-up gear is prohibited in the hagfish fishery (Section 180.6(b), Title 14, CCR); the applicant requests adding an exemption from Section 180.6(b) provisions to allow testing of pop-up gear in the hagfish fishery to inform potential future regulatory amendments to allow the use of pop-up gear, and thereby reduce entanglement risk, in the hagfish fishery.

Pursuant to subsection 91(d)(2), Title 14, CCR, the Department will provide a recommendation to the Commission concerning the requested major amendment, including any proposed permit special conditions. As soon as the Department's recommendation is available, but not less than 30 days before the hearing on this application, a notice will be published on the Commission's website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP> and sent to interested individuals providing information on the opportunity for public comment and published on the Commission's website. Please visit www.fgc.ca.gov for additional information.

Written comments and information on matters addressed in this notice and relevant to the Department's technical review of the accepted application may be submitted to James Steffey, EFP Analyst, at EFP@wildlife.ca.gov.

January 4, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director