



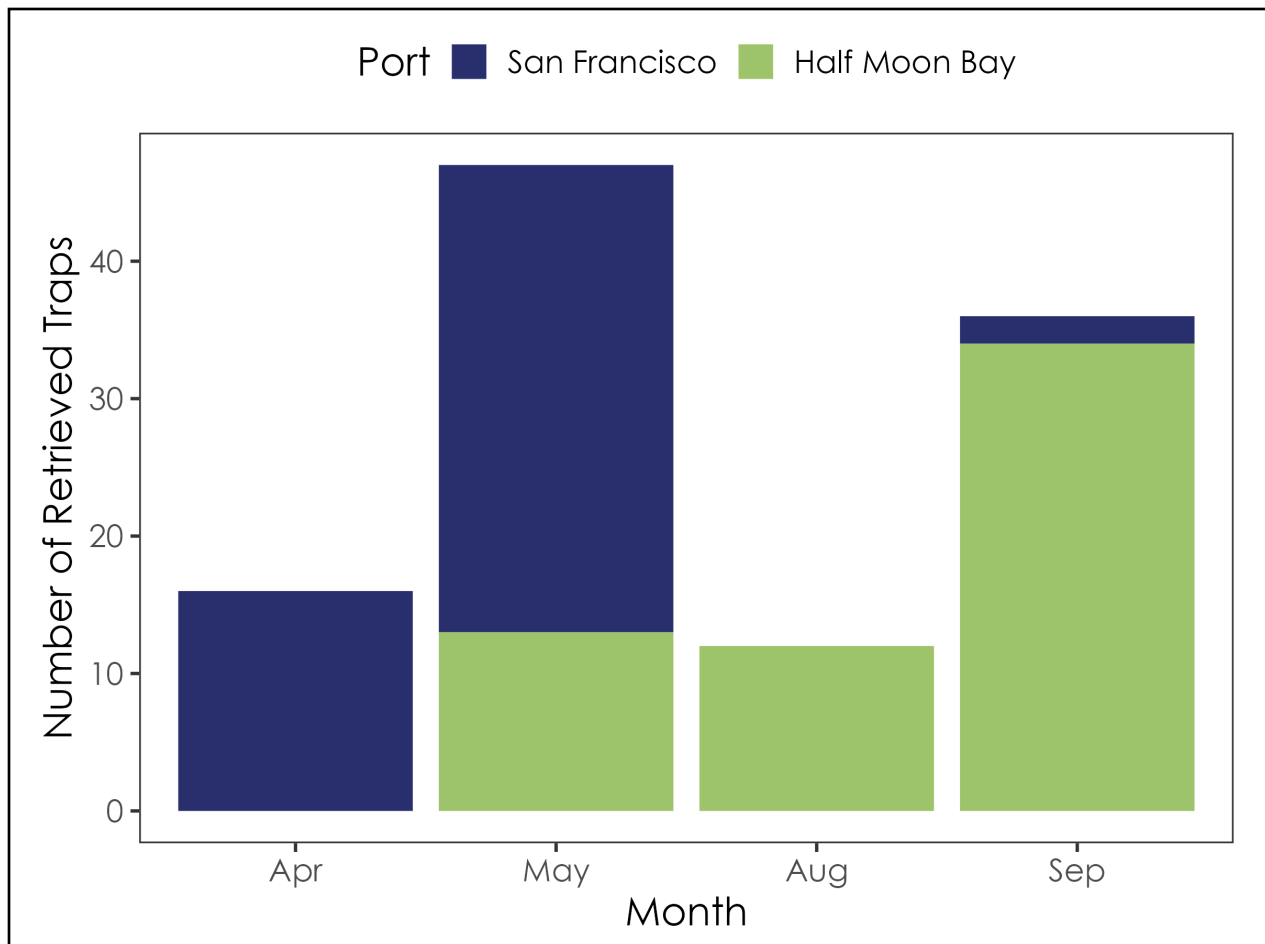
Retrieval of Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear During 2023

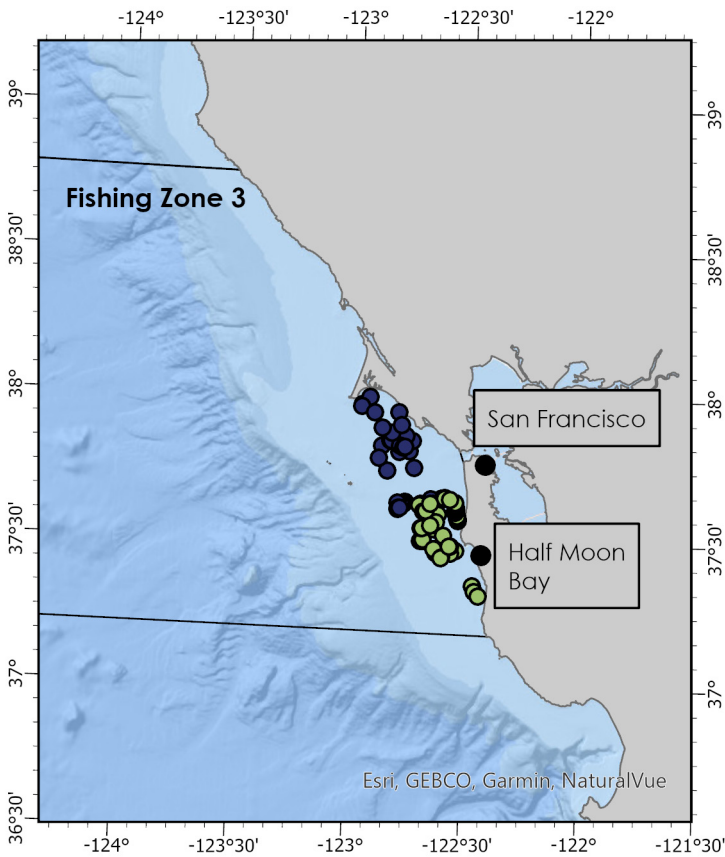
Recovery of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear is an important strategy to reduce marine life entanglement risk and maximize fishing opportunity. Retrieval can occur either through the formal CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program or through voluntary efforts by the Dungeness crab fishery. Available information regarding both types of gear recovery operations during 2023 is provided below.

CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program

Program Overview

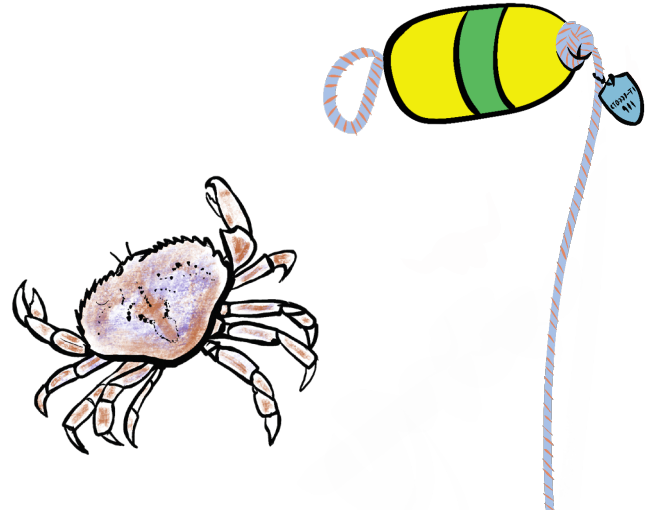
The [CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program](#) was established in September 2019 (§132.7, Title 14, CCR). Under the program, CDFW issues permits to qualified entities (Retrieval Permittees) who oversee removal of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear by commercial trap fishermen (Designated Retrievers). All retrieval activities are documented on a logbook submitted to CDFW. If reasonable compensation cannot be negotiated with the original owner, the Retrieval Permittee keeps the gear and may request reimbursement from CDFW. CDFW costs are covered by a per-trap fee paid by the original owner.





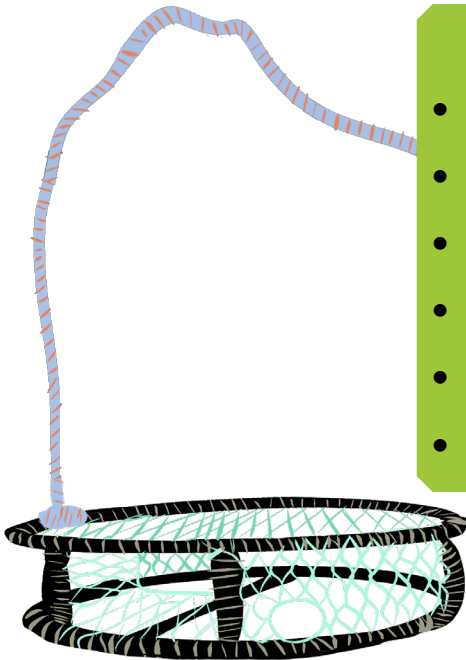
Two ports (San Francisco and Half Moon Bay) had active gear recovery programs. Confirmed locations of retrieved gear are shown in the map to the left.

A third permit was issued for Crescent City but no gear was retrieved.



By The Numbers

- **Retrieval Permits Issued: 3**
- **Active Designated Retrievers: 5**
- **Retrieval Trips: 8**
- **Retrieved Traps: 111**
- **Dungeness crab vessels with retrieved traps: 37**
- **Avg. traps per Dungeness crab vessel: 3**



Voluntary Retrieval Efforts

§132.2, Title 14, CCR also allows for recovery of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear by commercial Dungeness crab vessels. Unlike the CDFW program, compensation is not guaranteed. While there is no formal logbook requirement, CDFW encourages all individuals conducting retrieval under §132.2 to share the amount and location of any recovered gear so they can be incorporated into annual totals. In 2023, CDFW received reports of an additional five traps recovered near San Francisco.

Have you retrieved lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear? Email WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov and let us know!