

**Commissioners**  
**Eric Sklar**, President  
Saint Helena

**Erika Zavaleta**, Vice President  
Santa Cruz

**Jacque Hostler-Carmesin**, Member  
McKinleyville

**Samantha Murray**, Member  
La Jolla

**Darius W. Anderson**, Member  
Sacramento

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation*  
*Since 1870*

**Melissa A. Miller-Henson**  
**Executive Director**  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
(916) 653-4899  
[fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov)  
[www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov)

### Notice of Receipt of Major Amendment Request

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 February 6, 2024, 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. The EFP holder, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, is requesting a major amendment to their currently issued EFP (Commission tracking ID #2023-02), which was approved by the Commission on June 15, 2023 to test pop-up fishing gear in the California Dungeness crab fishery.

The applicant has requested to amend its EFP to: 1) increase the number of authorized agents and vessels; 2) allow for testing pop-up systems with multiple traps connected by a common groundline; 3) include the rock crab fishery in the testing of pop-up gear and allow retention of rock crab; 4) add an exemption to Risk Assessment Mitigation Program season closures initiated by the Department and allow for retention of Dungeness crab throughout the statutory season; 5) increase the number of pop-up traps authorized per trip and remove the cumulative limit on the number of traps deployed at one time; 6) remove the requirement to deploy gear with back up releases; 7) expand the geographic area where gear may be deployed to include waters between the Sonoma/Mendocino county line and the California/Oregon border; 8) allow for testing of three additional pop-up gear types and NOAA Fisheries-approved weak rope; and 9) clarify marking requirements when testing Fiobuoy units.

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. Please visit [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://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 amendment may be submitted to Owen Mulvey-McFerron, EFP Coordinator, at [EFP@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:EFP@wildlife.ca.gov).

Notice of receipt of major amendment request  
February 13, 2024  
Page 2

Please visit [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov) for additional information.

February 13, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission

Melissa Miller-Henson  
Executive Director