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## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation  
Since 1870*

### **Notice of Receipt of Recommendation and Consideration of Experimental Fishing Permit Application**

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 March 29, 2024 the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) received the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) recommendation regarding the Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) application to evaluate the potential for a commercial fishery for brown box crab, and to evaluate the feasibility of using on-demand buoy retrieval systems in deep water (50-125 fathoms) (EFP ID Tracking #2024-01). Consistent with subsections 91(e)(2) and (91)(f), Title 14, CCR the Commission has scheduled the EFP application for consideration at its June 19-20, 2024 meeting at Mammoth Lakes.

#### **EFP Project Description**

The EFP application requests a Tier 4 (Department facilitated) exploratory fishing EFP with a permit fee reduction for testing on-demand buoy retrieval systems (also known as "pop-up" fishing systems). The purpose of the proposed project is to provide data from the area between Pigeon Point, San Mateo County to the Sonoma/Mendocino County line to evaluate the potential for a commercial fishery for brown box crab, and to evaluate the feasibility of using on-demand buoy retrieval systems in deep water (50-125 fathoms).

The Commission's EFP program page at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP#2024-01> includes a detailed description of the project under "Notice of EFP Application" as well as the application itself.

#### **Department Recommendation**

Pursuant to subsection 91(d)(2), Title 14, CCR, the EFP application was accepted by the Department for technical review on February 8, 2024. The Department completed its evaluation of the application and transmitted its recommendation to the Commission on March 29, 2024. The Department recommends to deny the EFP application at this time. While the proposed research activities are of interest to the Department, the Department recommends that existing EFPs focused on similar gear and species be completed and evaluated prior to undertaking similar research in a different area. Secondly, managing existing EFPs requires significant staff time and resources; adding another EFP with significant Department oversight at this time would strain the Department's capacity. Please visit the Commission's EFP program page at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP#2024-01> to view the Department's recommendation.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

The application, Department recommendation, and other information in the records before the Commission are posted on the Commission's website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP>. Written comments on the EFP application and/or Department recommendation must be received by 5:00 PM on June 6, 2024 and may be emailed to [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov) or mailed to California Fish and Game Commission, Attn: EFP, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, California, 94244-2090. Oral comments will be accepted at the Commission's June 19-20, 2024 meeting.

April 29, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission

Melissa Miller-Henson  
Executive Director