

**Commissioners**  
**Samantha Murray**, President  
La Jolla  
**Erika Zavaleta**, Vice President  
Santa Cruz  
**Jacque Hostler-Carmesin**, Member  
McKinleyville  
**Eric Sklar**, Member  
Saint Helena  
**Darius W. Anderson**, Member  
Kenwood

## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation*  
*Since 1870*

### 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 August 23, 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 is requesting a major amendment to their existing EFP (Commission tracking ID #2022-03), which was initially approved by the Commission on February 8, 2023, to conduct testing of “on-demand” pop-up fishing systems in the California Dungeness crab and hagfish fisheries.

The permittee has requested to amend the EFP terms and conditions to:

- 1) remove the requirement to provide the Department with 24-hour notice prior to conducting EFP fishing activities;
- 2) increase the number of authorized agents and vessels;
- 3) exempt Permit Holders, Entity Administrators, and support staff from the requirement to hold a commercial fishing license and general trap permit if they are only involved in implementation, testing and gear support;
- 4) allow commercial fishing for sablefish, coonstripe shrimp, spot prawn, Chinook salmon, and Coho salmon to occur on the same trip as Dungeness crab fishing under the EFP;
- 5) report harvest as pounds of crab instead of number of crabs;
- 6) increase the per-vessel trap limit;
- 7) allow on-demand line handling sleds to satisfy the requirement for marking at least one terminal end of the trawl and clarify the sled is not a fishing trap;
- 8) increase the maximum number of traps per trawl;
- 9) require sinking or neutrally buoyant groundlines between traps in a trawl, except the first trap and sled or first and second trap in the trawl must be connected by floating line;
- 10) amend buoy marking requirements to accommodate spherical buoys in both the Dungeness and hagfish fisheries;
- 11) increase the trap service interval in both the Dungeness and hagfish fisheries;
- 12) specify contingency plans to facilitate trap recovery in the event of unforeseen setbacks for EFP participants;
- 13) direct the Department to work with electronic monitoring system providers to notify fishers

if their electronic monitoring system is not working, and develop subsequent contingencies for the fishers.

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).

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

September 20, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission  
Melissa Miller-Henson  
Executive Director