



# Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Program Update

***November 7, 2024***

*Presented to:*

**Marine Resources Committee**

**CA Fish and Game Commission**

*Presented by:*

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**Marine Region**



# EFP Program Overview

- Adopted pursuant to AB 1573 (Bloom, 2018) and Fish & G. Code section 1022
- Purpose: foster innovation and experimentation to inform the conservation and sustainable use of the state's marine resources
- Pathway: limited, short-term exemptions from state laws and regulations
- Partnership between CDFW and FGC
- Dedicated CDFW staff within new Marine Permitting Project
  - Coordinate with Marine Region programs, Marine Enforcement District, Office of General Counsel, License and Revenue Branch, applicants, and EFP holders



# EFP Program To Date

- Phase II EFP regulations: effective as of April 1, 2022
  - 23 requests for Pre-Application Consultation and 9 submitted applications
  - Commission has approved 7 EFPs and CDFW has issued 5 EFPs

<b>EFP Action</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Pre-application Consultation Request</b>	18	4	1	23
<b>Submitted Applications</b>	4	6	0	10
<b>Approved Applications</b>	2	4	1	7
<b>Issued Permits</b>	1	3	1	5
<b>Renewed Permits</b>	0	1	3	4
<b>Minor Amendments</b>	1	7	3	11
<b>Major Amendments</b>	1	2	3	6
<b>CDFW Initiated Amendments</b>	0	0	1	1



# Summary of Approved EFPs

Tracking ID	FGC Approval	Target Species	Gear Tested	Tier
<b>2022-01</b>	Aug 2022	Swordfish and other highly migratory species	Deep-set buoy gear	3
<b>2022-02</b>	<i>Oct 2022</i>	<i>King and other deepwater crabs</i>	<i>Traditional traps</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>2022-03</b>	Feb 2023	Dungeness crab and hagfish	Pop up gear + trawls	2
<b>2022-04</b>	<i>April 2023</i>	<i>Dungeness crab</i>	<i>Pop up gear</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>2023-02</b>	June 2023	Dungeness crab and rock crab	Pop-up gear + trawls; NOAA-approved weak rope	2
<b>2023-01</b>	June 2023	Brown box and California king crab	Pop-up gear + trawls	4
<b>2023-03</b>	Feb 2024	Dungeness crab	Hoopnets	2



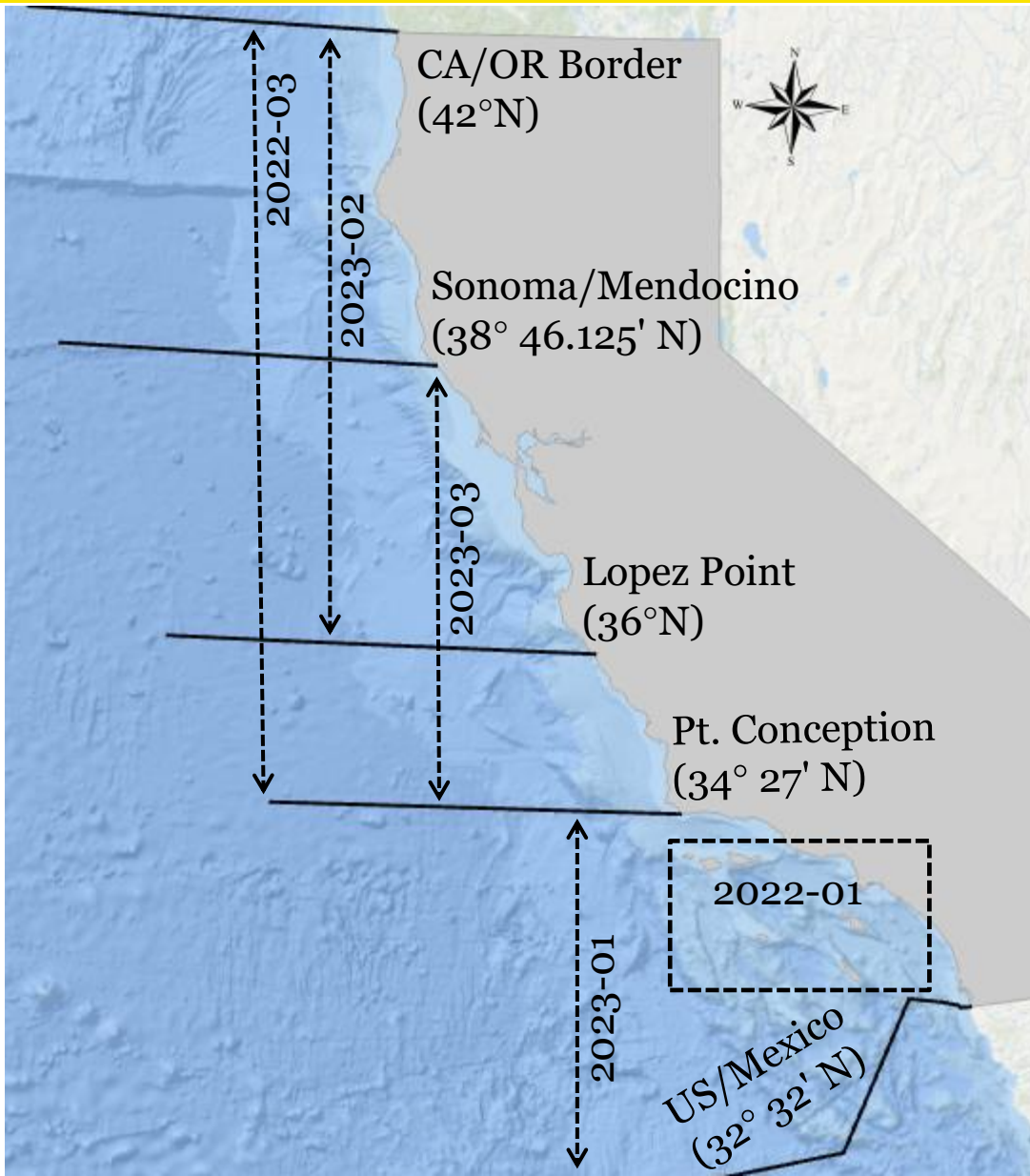
# Pop-Up Gear EFPs

- Three issued EFPs are testing different types of pop-up releases

<b>Pop-Up Release</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>2022-03</b>	<b>2023-02</b>	<b>2023-01</b>	<b>Total EFPs</b>
Sub Sea Sonics TR4RT	Timed	Y	Y	N	2
Sub Sea Sonics AR4RT	Acoustic	Y	Y	N	2
Sub Sea Sonics DAR4RT	Acoustic	N	N	Y	1
Desert Star ARC-1XD	Acoustic	N	Y	Y	2
Guardian Ropeless GTR	Timed	N	Y	N	1
EdgeTech 5112	Acoustic	N	Y	N	1
Fiomarine Fiobuoy	Acoustic	N	Y	Y	2
Ashored Innovations MOBI	Acoustic	N	Y	N	1
Ropeless Systems Ropeless RISER	Acoustic	N	N	Y	1



# EFP Testing Areas



## Dungeness crab

- 2022-03: within 100 fa
- 2023-02: within 100 fa
- 2023-03: within 30 fa

## Box and King crab

- 2023-01: outside 60 fa

## Highly Migratory Species

- 2022-01: state waters surrounding the islands & specified mainland areas



# Fiscal Considerations

- Current EFP fees (*50% fee reduction*)
  - Application: \$180.77
  - Initial issuance: \$1,015.50 (*\$507.75*)
  - Annual
    - Tier 1: \$523.25 (*\$265.25*)
    - Tier 2: \$1,225.00 (*\$616.00*)
    - Tier 3: \$4,896.25 (*\$2,452.00*)
    - Tier 4: \$11,210.00 (*\$5,608.75*)
  - Minor amendment: \$225.83
  - Major amendment: \$529.25



# Preliminary Findings and Forecast

- Meeting legislative mandates: bycatch reduction and sustainability
  - Area of growth: EFPs focused on fishing effort efficiency
- Program challenges
  - Number and frequency of amendments
  - Incomplete lists of authorized agents and vessels
  - Enforcement of permit conditions
- Looking ahead
  - Legislative report
  - Programmatic improvements
  - Prioritizing future applications



# Thank You

The logo of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a yellow outline and a light blue background. Inside the shield, the word "CALIFORNIA" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters at the top. Below it, a yellow map of California is centered. Underneath the map, the words "DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE" are written in smaller, bold, yellow capital letters.

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