

California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group) Management Recommendation to inform the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Working Group Discussion Date: November 19, 2024

There was broad support and limited opposition for the Marine Region's preliminary recommendation for both the commercial fishery season delay (all Fishing Zones) and the recreational crab trap prohibition (Fishing Zones 3 and 4). The Working Group also provided a recommendation specific to Fishing Zones 1 and 2 (see below).

Additionally, the Working Group requests that the Department conduct a Risk Assessment in early December to inform a potential commercial fishery opener of December 15th. The Working Group stressed that the elimination of an early December Risk Assessment would result in an automatic delay of the season opener to on or around January 1, 2025.

Working Group Recommendation: Commercial Fishery (Fishing Zones 1 and 2)

The Working Group brought forth a recommendation to delay the commercial fishery in Fishing Zones 1 and 2 due to high Marine Life Concentrations. This recommendation received limited support and limited opposition from the Working Group.