

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: December 4, 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).

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

The Working Group brought forth a recommendation to open the commercial fishery on December 15, 2024, in Fishing Zones 1 and 2. The rationale was based on Marine Life Concentration triggers not being met. The Working Group also noted that the elevated impact score is being driven by numerous unidentified entanglements and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery should not be penalized for unidentified entanglements. This recommendation received limited support and limited opposition from the Working Group.