



COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB GEAR MARKING INFORMATION

It is often not possible to identify the specific fishery responsible for a whale entanglement, resulting in a high number of unidentified fishery entanglements. Fishery specific gear marking will help address this issue and supports the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's application for an Incidental Take Permit for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

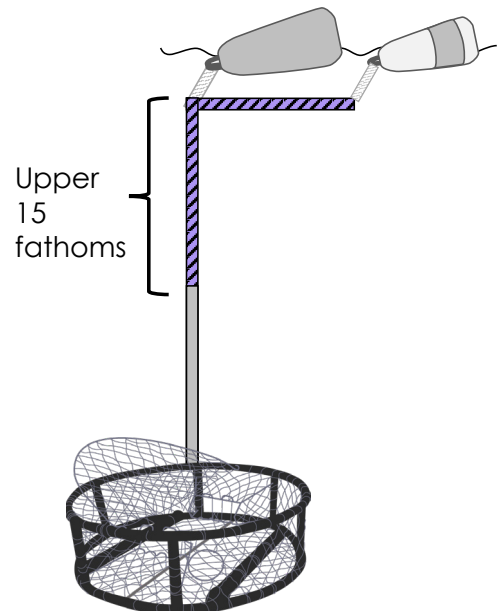
Starting November 1, 2025, phased buoy and line marking requirements will be implemented for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery (see below). Enhanced marking will help identify entanglements in California commercial Dungeness crab gear and also prevent whale entanglements in unidentified gear from being attributed to the commercial Dungeness crab fishery which can impact the season for all California commercial Dungeness crab fishermen.

Surface and Vertical Line Marking

It is anticipated that by November 2028, dual-colored purple and black line will be required for all **surface line** (excluding buoy gangions) and the **upper 15 fathoms of vertical lines** (see page 2 for information about the 20 fathom exemption). Only **California Commercial Dungeness Crab** traps will be allowed to use purple and black line.

Anticipated Timeline for marking surface gear and 15 fathoms of vertical line

- **2025 - 2026 Season**
All surface gear must be marked (see Buoy Marking section for more information)
- **2026 - 2027 Season**
Upper 15 fathoms of 25% of deployed gear and all surface lines must be marked
- **2027- 2028 Season**
Upper 15 fathoms of 50% of deployed gear and all surface lines must be marked
- **2028 - 2029 Season**
Upper 15 fathoms of 100% of deployed gear and all surface lines must be marked



Types of Marked Line

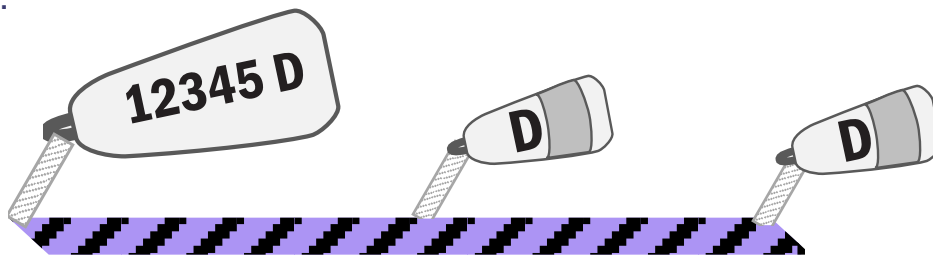
Individuals have the option to either buy manufactured marked line or paint existing lines. Manufactured line must have two strands of purple line and one strand of black line. Painted line must be painted in alternating solid color marks of 6-12 inches in length and cover the entirety (circumference) of the line; painted lines must be regularly serviced and maintained in a condition to readily identify the line marking as purple and black.



Buoy Marking

Under regulations ready for adoption by the Department, it is anticipated that next season (2025-2026) all buoys (main and trailer) must be marked with the letter **D**. Buoys that are greater than 4 inches in diameter must have “D” on four opposing sides. Buoys that are less than 4 inches in diameter must have “D” on two opposing sides. Main buoys must also display the operator’s commercial fishing license number. All “D” markings must be at least 3 inches tall and 1/4 inch thick.

Main buoys must be marked with the operator’s commercial fishing license number on one side of the buoy.



20 Fathom Exemption

Up to five fathoms of the line closest to the crab pot may be any color, including when fishing with less than 20 fathoms of total line.

