

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: May 16, 2025

The Working Group discussed the Marine Region's preliminary recommendation for the commercial and recreational fisheries. The Department recommended the continuation of the 25% Gear Reduction and 30-Fathom Depth Constraint in Fishing Zones 1 and 2 for the commercial fishery, and a continuation of the Crab Trap Prohibition in Fishing Zones 3-4 and Fleet Advisory in Fishing Zones 1-6 for the recreational fishery. The Working Group provided broad support and limited opposition to the Department's recommendation for both the recreational and commercial fisheries. The Working Group provided one alternate recommendation for consideration by the CDFW Director.

Working Group Recommendation #1: Remove the 25% Gear Reduction and continue the 30-fathom Depth Constraint in the Commercial Fishery in Fishing Zones 1-2

The Working Group provided a recommendation to remove the 25% Gear Reduction and continue the 30-fathom Depth Constraint for the commercial fishery in Fishing Zones 1 and 2, effective immediately. The key rationale was that there is already a natural reduction in fishing effort and low Marine Life Concentrations in these areas. Additionally, there is science to support the current Depth Constraint but not the Gear Reduction. This recommendation received limited support and limited opposition.