



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERY SEASON CLOSURE
IN THE COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY
DUE TO RISK OF MARINE LIFE ENTANGLEMENT**

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 8276.1(b) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 132.8 ("Section 132.8"), I find and declare that:

I

On June 13, 2025, I evaluated entanglement risk for the commercial Dungeness crab fisheries pursuant to Sections 132.8. I provided the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group) and the Whale Safe Fisheries email listserv with notice of the risk assessment and all non-confidential data under consideration on June 10, 2025. Prior to this risk assessment and management response, Department staff reviewed all relevant information and consulted with the Working Group.

II

A Confirmed Entanglement with a humpback whale occurred during the Fishing Season. Pursuant to Section 132.8(c)(1)(B), I must implement a Fishing Zone closure or other protective Management Action.

III

The Impact Score Calculation exceeded a running average of two humpback whale entanglements over a three-year period. Pursuant to Section 132.8(c)(1)(C), I must implement a Fishing Zone closure or other protective Management Action.

IV

Upon evaluation of the management considerations pursuant to Section 132.8(d), I have determined that the management action listed below protects humpback whales based on the best available science. Additional information on the relevant management considerations is provided in the attachment to this declaration.

V

THEREFORE, under the authority granted by Fish and Game Code Section 8276.1(b) and Sections 132.8 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, I am implementing the following management action:

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

1. Effective June 20, 2025 at 6:00pm, closure of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery for the remainder of the 2024-25 season in Fishing Zones 1 and 2. All commercial Dungeness crab traps must be removed from ocean waters in those Fishing Zones by that date and time. The take and possession of Dungeness crab from closed waters is prohibited after 6:00pm on June 20, 2025 pursuant to Fish and Game Code 8276.1(c). This closure does not apply when using authorized Alternative Gear, as stated below.
2. Retrieval operations under the Lost or Abandoned Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Program, as defined in Section 132.7 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, may begin in Fishing Zones 1 and 2 at 6:00am on June 27, 2025.
3. Pursuant to Section 132.2(a)(2)(E) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, beginning at 6:00am on June 27, 2025, permitted Dungeness crab vessels may retrieve an unlimited number of commercial Dungeness crab traps from Fishing Zones 1 and 2 which are lost, damaged, abandoned, or otherwise derelict. All crustaceans and finfish must be immediately returned to the water and not retained when retrieving lost, abandoned, or derelict Dungeness crab traps pursuant to this declaration. The Department requests that individuals retrieving gear pursuant to Section 132.2(a)(2)(E) report their activities to WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov. The Department also requests individuals to submit a [CalTIP notification](#) if they observe large amounts of gear from a given permit holder within any of these Fishing Zones. Individuals possessing or retrieving traps from Zones 1 or 2 pursuant to Section 132.2(a)(2)(E) are prohibited from possessing crab. Any vessel operating or transiting in an open Fishing Zone may not possess more than six traps belonging to another vessel, pursuant to Section 132.2(a)(2)(A).
4. Authorized Alternative Gear may be used in all closed Fishing Zones. Currently there are no authorized Alternative Gear types. If an Alternative Gear type is authorized before the statutory season closure date, it may be used for take of Dungeness crab.

These management actions are in effect through the end of the statutory season.

Updates and material regarding future entanglement risk evaluations in the commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fisheries will be made available on the [Department's Whale Safe Fisheries web page](#).



Charlton H. Bonham, Director

6/13/2025 10 am PST

Date/Time

ATTACHMENT TO DIRECTOR June 13, 2025 DECLARATION OF FISHERY SEASON
CLOSURE IN THE COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY DUE TO RISK OF MARINE
LIFE ENTANGLEMENT

Information referenced in this Attachment is further described in the Final Assessment of Marine Life Entanglement Risk and Management Recommendation dated June 13, 2025 and the Available Data and Preliminary Assessment document dated June 10, 2025, and located at the Department's [Whale Safe Fisheries website](#), which to the Department's knowledge represents the best available science informing this risk assessment.

These recommendations were based on the Entanglement Impact Score for the entire commercial fishery and historical migration patterns of humpback whales.