## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS Risk Assessment Mitigation Program (RAMP) 2024 Program Revision June 25, 2025

15-DAY CONTINUATION OF NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), proposes amendments to Section 132.8 to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the Risk Assessment Mitigation Program (RAMP) 2024 program revision affecting the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

RAMP is a dynamic management framework that assesses and manages marine life entanglement risk associated with the Dungeness crab fishery. The program specifically provides for delegation to the Department's Director informed management responses to reduce and mitigate entanglement risk for humpback whales, blue whales, and Pacific leatherback sea turtles (collectively "Actionable Species"). This proposal modifies the RAMP regulations that originally went into effect November 1, 2020 based on four seasons' worth of implementation experience, as well as feedback from the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group) and other stakeholders, and updated guidance from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

FGC Section 8276.1 provides the Department with the authority to adopt and implement RAMP, and enables the Director of the Department (Director) to restrict the take of Dungeness crab pursuant to protocols and criteria set forth in RAMP.

The proposed RAMP amendments contain the following summarized changes to address clarity and procedure standards pursuant to the California Administrative Procedures Act:

- 1. Correct cross references in Definitions section
- 2. Clarify accounting of Confirmed Entanglements
- 3. Remove all buoy marking requirements
- 4. Revert to original authorization date for use of Alternative Gear

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After consideration of all public comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action, the Department may adopt the proposed regulations.

The Department is providing notice of proposed action with regard to the above-entitled regulation. The documents outlining the proposed action can be found on the Department's webpage at: <a href="http://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/RAMP2024">http://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/RAMP2024</a>

## WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments on the proposed action to the Department. All written comments must be received by the Department via mail, or e-mail, no later than **Thursday**, **July 10**, **2025**, to the contact as follows:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Regulations Unit

Attn: Chelle Temple-King, Sr. Environmental Scientist

P.O. Box 944209

Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Email: Regulations@wildlife.ca.gov