

Staff Summary for December 10-11, 2025

14. Commercial Take of Coonstripe Shrimp Emergency (Consent)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider adopting a second 90-day extension of emergency regulations related to the commercial take of coonstripe shrimp.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Adoption hearing for <i>emergency regulations</i> | February 12-13, 2025 |
| • Readoption of <i>emergency regulations</i> | August 13-14, 2025 |
| • Today's second readoption of <i>emergency regulations</i> | December 10-11, 2025 |
| • Notice hearing for <i>regular rulemaking</i> | December 10-11, 2025 |
| • Discussion/adoption hearing for <i>regular rulemaking</i> | February 11-12, 2026 |

Background

The California coonstripe shrimp commercial trap fishery has experienced increased participation in recent years, largely due to closures and limitations in other fisheries. This increase in fishing activity, particularly during peak whale migration, has elevated the risk of marine animal entanglement by increasing the amount of trap gear and vertical lines in the water. Three recent humpback whale entanglements were linked to this fishery, in direct conflict with federal protection under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, and with California's goal of zero entanglement mortality. In February 2025, the Commission responded by taking emergency regulatory action to limit individual gear use and future participation. The emergency regulations were designed to reduce entanglement risks and align with federal protections for marine mammals. Additional background information can be found in Exhibit 1.

Update

Today's proposed action is to approve a second readoption of the emergency regulations for an additional 90 days. No changes have been made to the regulatory language since the emergency regulations were first adopted at the February 2025 meeting. Further details on the recommended readoption are provided in the draft emergency statement and draft emergency regulatory language (exhibits 3 and 4).

A regular rulemaking is scheduled for notice at today's meeting (Agenda Item 19) to extend the coonstripe shrimp trap fishery restrictions following the expiration of the emergency regulations. Discussion and potential adoption of the regular rulemaking is scheduled for February 2026. This second readoption of the emergency regulations will ensure there is no gap between the expiration of the emergency regulations and the implementation of the regular rulemaking.

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Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Commission staff: Find, pursuant to Section 399 of the California Fish and Game Code, the proposed emergency regulation is necessary for the immediate conservation, preservation, or protection of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, or reptiles, including, but not limited to, their nests or eggs.

The Commission further determines, pursuant to Section 11346.1 of the California Government Code, that an emergency situation exists and finds the proposed regulation is necessary to address the emergency.

Readopt the emergency regulations that amended Section 180.15, for the commercial take of coonstripe shrimp, as recommended by the Department.

Department: Authorize the emergency regulations for an additional 90 days as proposed in exhibits 3 and 4.

Exhibits

1. [Staff summary for Agenda Item 19, February 12-13, 2025 Commission meeting](#) (*for background purposes only*)
2. [Department memo](#), received November 14, 2025
3. [Draft emergency statement and informative digest](#), dated November 1, 2025
4. [Draft proposed regulatory language](#)
5. [Draft economic and fiscal impact statement](#) (STD 399)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the recommendation for items 14 through 17 on the consent calendar.

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025
(For background purposes only)

19. Commercial Take of Coonstripe Shrimp Emergency

Today's Item

Information ☐

Action ☒

Consider adopting emergency regulations for the commercial take of coonstripe shrimp.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Today discuss and consider adopting emergency regulations February 12-13, 2025

Background

Commission regulations in Section 180.15 authorize commercial take of coonstripe for any owner of a vessel that has been issued a coonstripe shrimp vessel trap permit for that vessel. Coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus danae*) may be caught in longline trap gear, where traps are connected to a groundline anchored at each end, also referred to as a "string". Typically, a string contains 10-20 traps, but some can have up to 40 traps. Small shrimp and other bycatch can escape the trap through the mesh, typically 0.5 inches. Trap string lengths vary in different areas of the state to minimize gear conflicts and optimize placement on suitable habitat.

Participants in the coonstripe shrimp fishery also engage in other California commercial fisheries, especially Dungeness crab, salmon and groundfish, which have undergone recent closures or increased limitations. In response, participation in the coonstripe shrimp fishery has begun to increase as opportunities have declined in the other fisheries. More fishermen are anticipated to redirect their fishing effort to enter the coonstripe fishery due to the changes in fishing opportunity.

Increased participation in the coonstripe shrimp trap fishery elevates the risk of marine life entanglement, primarily by increasing the amount of trap gear in the water. More participants mean more vertical lines and a broader spatial distribution of fishing activity during the peak whale migration period, raising the chances of marine animals encountering and becoming entangled in the gear. Animals such as whales can become entangled when they make contact with the lines and become weighed down by the heavy metal traps, leading to injury or death.

Coonstripe fishing gear has been implicated in a total of three humpback whale entanglements: one in 2017 near Crescent City, and two in 2024 near San Francisco. Humpback whales are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The recent entanglements hinder progress toward California's goal of zero entanglement mortality and are in direct conflict with the federal ESA and MMPA.

Under current regulations, there are no limits to the number of fishery participants or amount of gear that can be deployed. The Department is requesting that the Commission amend Section 180.15 to reduce marine life entanglement risk for the coonstripe shrimp commercial fishery. The requested emergency regulatory action will limit additional gear usage by current fishery participants and allow the Commission to limit future participation in the fishery to reduce marine life entanglement risk; see the emergency statement in Exhibit 2 for a summary

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025
(For background purposes only)

of the conditions that constitute the emergency. Emergency action is needed to implement the regulations before the start of the next season on May 1, 2025.

The requested regulatory amendments (detailed in exhibits 2 and 3) would:

- Update how and when to contact Department law enforcement regarding compliance with regulations;
- Define the terms “groundline” and “vertical line”;
- Establish a management boundary at the Sonoma/Mendocino county border northward to the California Oregon border, and southward to the United States/Mexico border;
- Impose a limit on the number traps per ground line;
- Impose a limit on the number of vertical lines per vessel;
- Establish a maximum depth limit of 30 fathoms for the northern fishery; and,
- Repeal the existing control date of November 1, 2001 and establish a new control date of February 13, 2025.

Today, the Department will present an overview of the fishery, proposed emergency measures, and potential for a standard rulemaking (Exhibit 5).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Adopt the proposed emergency regulation for the commercial take of coonstripe shrimp as recommended by the Department.

Department: Adopt the emergency regulation as proposed in exhibits 2 and 3.

Exhibits

1. Department memo, received January 24, 2025
2. Draft emergency statement and informative digest, dated January 6, 2025
3. Draft proposed regulatory language
4. Draft economic and fiscal impact statement (STD 399)
5. Department presentation

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission finds, pursuant to Section 399 of the California Fish and Game Code, that adopting the proposed emergency regulation is necessary for the immediate conservation, preservation, or protection of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, or reptiles, including, but not limited to, their nests or eggs.

The Commission further determines, pursuant to Section 11346.1 of the Government Code, that an emergency situation exists and finds the proposed regulation is necessary to address the emergency.

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025
(*For background purposes only*)

Therefore, the Commission adopts the emergency regulation to amend Section 180.15, as discussed today.

Memorandum

Date: November 12, 2025

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Submission of Emergency Statement for the December 10-11, 2025 Fish and Game Commission Meeting for Second Readoption of the Amendment of Subsections 180.15, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize the emergency regulations for an additional 90 days to reduce marine life entanglement risk in the coonstripe shrimp fishery. The request to readopt these emergency regulations will be heard at the December 11, 2025 Commission meeting; please see enclosed materials.

The original emergency regulations effective April 7, 2025, limited entanglement risk in the fishery by establishing a dividing line for fishery management at the Sonoma/Mendocino County line, limited the number of vertical lines that may be deployed per vessel, limited the number of traps per groundline, established a maximum depth limit of 30 fathoms north of the Sonoma/Mendocino County line, and set a new control date.

The current emergency rule was readopted for 90 days at the August 2025 Commission meeting and will expire on January 26, 2026 unless it is readopted for an additional 90 days. The readoption is needed to extend the emergency regulation until a standard rulemaking is completed. Department staff are developing a standard rulemaking to permanently enact the changes from the emergency rulemaking and introduce additional considerations. That rulemaking package is scheduled for a notice hearing before the Commission in December 2025, and to be effective prior to the 2026 fishing season.

If you have any questions regarding this item, contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Regional Manager, at (805) 568-1246. The public notice for this rulemaking should identify Environmental Scientist Ian Kelmartin as the Department's point of contact. His contact information is (707) 337-7061 or R7RegionalMgr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
November 12, 2025
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cc: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Craig Shuman, D. Env., Region Manager
Marine Region

Joanna Grebel, Env. Program Manager
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Eric Kord, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Garrett Wheel, Attorney III
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Ona Alminas, Env. Program Manager
Regulations Unit

Susan Ashcraft, Marine Advisor
Fish and Game Commission

Jennifer Bacon, Analyst
Fish and Game Commission

David Thesell, Deputy Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

**California Fish and Game Commission
Finding of Emergency and
Statement of Proposed Emergency Regulatory Action**

**Second 90-day Extension of Emergency Action to Amend Section 180.15
Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

Re: Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery

Date of Statement: November 1, 2025

Throughout this document, Department or CDFW refer to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Commission refers to the California Fish and Game Commission. Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

I. Emergency Regulations in Effect to Date

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) approved an emergency rulemaking amending Section 180.15, Title 14, CCR, which became effective April 7, 2025. The emergency regulation was readopted for 90 days at the August 2025 Commission meeting. The emergency regulation includes the following changes:

- Established a management boundary from the Sonoma/Mendocino county border northward to the California-Oregon border, and southward to the United States-Mexico border.
- Imposed a limit on the number of traps per groundline. The limit is 15 for the Northern fishery and 40 for the Southern fishery.
- Imposed a limit on the number of vertical lines per vessel. The limit is 180 for the Northern fishery and 60 for the Southern fishery.
- Established a maximum depth limit of 30 fathoms for the Northern fishery.
- Repealed the existing control date of November 1, 2001, and established a new control date of February 13, 2025.

This regulation was adopted in response to marine life entanglements in 2024 that involved commercial coonstripe fishing gear. It aims to reduce the risk of such entanglements in the coonstripe fishery, especially with the recent increase in participants.

II. Request for Approval of Readoption of Emergency Regulations

The current emergency regulation Section 180.15, Title 14, CCR will expire on January 26, 2026 unless it is readopted for an additional 90 days. The readoption is needed to extend the emergency regulation until a standard rulemaking is completed. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff are developing a standard rulemaking through a Certificate of Compliance action to permanently enact the changes from the emergency rulemaking and introduce additional considerations. That rulemaking package is scheduled for a notice hearing before the Commission in December 2025, and to be effective prior to the 2026 fishing season, which starts May 1.

III. Statement of Facts Constituting the Need for Emergency Regulatory Action

Background

Coonstripe shrimp (*Pandalus danae*) support a commercial trap fishery centered in Northern California, from Monterey Bay to the California/Oregon border. The first significant commercial landings were recorded in 1996 in Crescent City. Landings and value have increased slowly over time, with some year-to-year fluctuations. Although the volume of landings is low when compared to other state managed fisheries, the fishery is valuable in part due to the high price per pound (\$10 in 2024) in comparison to many other fisheries. The fishery's popularity is primarily driven by the high market demand for live coonstripe shrimp. A total of 11 vessels landed shrimp in 2023 and 14 vessels landed shrimp in 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1. Coonstripe shrimp landings in California, 2019-2024. Vessels are the number of vessels that landed more than 100 pounds of coonstripe shrimp over the course of the season.

Year	Pounds	Value	Vessels
2019	99,319	\$598,035	7
2020	96,580	\$604,537	7
2021	122,006	\$916,501	6
2022	103,432	\$873,578	7
2023	122,026	\$1,150,179	11
2024	140,729	\$1,428,001	14

The Commission adopted regulations for the fishery in 2002. Participation is unrestricted, but a vessel trap permit is required for each vessel participating in the fishery. The fishery is open from May 1 through October 31 and closed from November 1 to April 30 to protect egg-bearing females. The regulations set a control date of November 1, 2001 for the purpose of establishing a future limited access fishery.

Coonstripe shrimp are caught in longline trap gear. Traps are connected to a groundline anchored at each end, referred to as a “string.” Surface buoys attached to one or both ends of the groundline mark the string’s location. Typically, a string contains 10 to 20 traps, but some can have up to 40 traps. Small shrimp and other bycatch can escape the trap through the mesh, typically 0.5-inch square openings. Trap string lengths vary in different areas of the state to minimize gear conflicts and optimize placement on suitable habitat. Near Crescent City, where effort is concentrated in one small area, fishermen use more strings (30 to 90), but each is shorter (12 to 15 traps). In the San Francisco Bay Area, where more habitat is available, fishermen generally deploy fewer, but longer strings (4 to 30 strings; up to 40 traps per string).

Coonstripe shrimp are primarily landed in the port areas of Crescent City and San Francisco. Crescent City has a fleet of five to seven vessels that account for the majority of annual landings by weight and value. While San Francisco and Monterey Bay area (Moss Landing, and Monterey ports) have fewer landings compared to Crescent City, vessel participation has recently increased. Prior to 2023, one to four vessels typically operated in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay areas; however, this number increased to seven vessels in 2023 and nine in 2024. Participants in the coonstripe shrimp fishery also engage in other California commercial fisheries, especially Dungeness crab, salmon, and groundfish, which have undergone recent

closures or increased restrictions. The closure or restriction of those fisheries likely accounts for some of the redirection of effort to participation in the coonstripe shrimp fishery, particularly in the San Francisco area.

Coonstripe fishing gear has been implicated in a total of four whale entanglements: one in 2017 near Crescent City, two in 2024 near San Francisco, and one in Monterey Bay in 2025. As opportunities decline in other fisheries (i.e., salmon, groundfish), more fishermen are likely to enter the coonstripe fishery. Increased participation in the coonstripe shrimp fishery elevates the risk of marine life entanglement primarily by increasing the amount of gear in the water. More participants mean more vertical lines and a broader spatial distribution of fishing activity during the peak whale migration period, raising the chances of marine animals encountering and becoming entangled in the gear. Animals such as whales can become entangled when they make contact with the lines and become weighed down by the heavy metal traps, leading to injury or death.

IV. Existence of an Emergency and Need for Immediate Action

The Commission considers the following factors in determining that an emergency exists:

Magnitude of Potential Harm:

The Department recommends readopting these proposed regulations through emergency action to avoid serious harm to the public peace and general welfare. The current regulations for the coonstripe shrimp fishery allow unlimited growth in terms of participants and deployed gear. This poses significant risk of marine life entanglement, as most of this fishery growth is likely to occur in the San Francisco Bay Area, where whales are often observed in the same area where the coonstripe shrimp fishery occurs.

Continued entanglements could lead to additional restrictions on the fishery through inclusion in a federal take reduction plan, litigation, or other actions. The proposed regulations would limit the potential for future entanglements and allow the state to continue to manage the fishery—allowing more flexibility to balance the needs of fishermen and the marine environment.

Existence of a Crisis Situation and Immediacy of Need:

The basis for this emergency action is four confirmed entanglements of whales in coonstripe fishery gear in 2024-2025, and the need to minimize entanglement risk, expected as a result of future increases in the number of participants, through the 2025 season. Entanglements result in harm to the entangled animal, broader marine ecosystem, and pose risks to entanglement responders. These recent entanglements hinder progress towards California's goal of zero entanglement mortality and are in direct conflict with the federal Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. The current emergency regulation expires after the end of the 2025 fishing season, but in order to sustain the emergency regulations to ensure certain elements, such as the revised control date of February 13, 2025, do not lapse as the certificate of compliance is pursued, re-adoption of the regulation is essential. If the emergency regulation expires, the fishery will revert to previous regulations with no limits to the number of fishery participants or amount of gear that can be deployed.

Proposed Emergency Regulations

The proposed regulatory action amends Section 180.15 in the following manner:

1. **Management Boundary:** Establishes a management boundary at the Sonoma/Mendocino County border. The dividing line for coonstripe fishery regulations recognizes the distinct fishing practices and marine life entanglement risks to the north and south of this line.
2. **Vertical Line Limits:** Imposes limits on the number of vertical lines per vessel, which are lines attaching a trap or string of traps to a surface buoy, a primary source of entanglement risk. The limit is 180 for the Northern fishery and 60 for the Southern fishery. These limits reflect current fishing practices and the higher entanglement risk in the Southern portion of the fishery.
3. **Traps-per-String Limits.** Establishes limits on the number of traps per string. Limiting the number of authorized vertical lines may incentivize fishing longer strings of traps. This measure addresses the additional impact of longer, heavier strings of traps, which can increase the severity of injury for entangled marine life, increase gear conflicts, and increase safety risk for department wildlife officers during gear inspections. The limit is 15 for the Northern fishery and 40 for the Southern fishery, reflecting current fishing practices.
4. **Depth Limit (Northern Fishery):** Establish a maximum depth limit of 30 fathoms (fm) for the Northern fishery. This restriction to only allow fishing shoreward of 30 fm aims to reduce whale/gear interactions by limiting fishing activity where whale presence is less likely. A 30 fm depth restriction has been effective in reducing whale entanglement risk in the Dungeness crab fishery in this same area during spring and summer months, which partially overlap with the coonstripe fishery season. A depth restriction in the Southern region would not be effective due to the broad distribution of whales across various depth strata and regular occurrence of whales shoreward of the 30 fm line.
5. **New Control Date (February 13, 2025):** Repeal the existing control date of November 1, 2001, and establish a new control date of February 13, 2025. A new control date allows the department to consider recent participation in the fishery if a restricted access program is established. It also discourages new entrants, mitigating potential increases in coonstripe fishing gear and associated entanglement risk.

V. Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (b) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (c) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(d) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(e) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

VI. Technical, Theoretical, and/or Empirical Studies, Reports, or Documents Relied Upon

McVeigh, B. (2010) Coonstripe Shrimp, *Pandalus danae*. In T. Larinto (Ed.) *Status of the Fisheries Report: An Update Through 2008*. California Department of Fish and Game.

Petition 2020-011 AM1 regarding establishing a limited entry fishery, trap limits, and minimum mesh size.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, Whale Entanglement Response Database, available from West Coast Large Whale Entanglement Response Program | NOAA Fisheries, last accessed June 13, 2025

Endangered and Threatened Species; Identification of 14 Distinct Population Segments of the Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Revision of Species-Wide Listing, 81 No. 174 F.R. 62260 (September 8, 2016).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/08/2016-21276/endangered-and-threatened-species-identification-of-14-distinct-population-segments-of-the-humpback>

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. (December 2024). Application for an Individual Incidental Take Permit Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973: Incidental Take Permit Application and Draft Conservation Plan for California's Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=228134&inline>

California Ocean Protection Council. (November 2019). Strategy for Protecting Whales and Sea Turtles & Ensuring Thriving Fisheries: Reducing the Risk of Entanglement in California Fishing Gear.

VII. Authority and Reference

Authority: Sections 713, 1050, and 8591, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 1050, 8590, 8591, 8595, 9001 and 9015, Fish and Game Code.

VIII. Section 399 Finding

The current regulations for the coonstripe shrimp fishery allow potentially unlimited growth in terms of participants and deployed gear. This poses significant risk of marine life entanglement, as most of this fishery growth is likely to occur in the San Francisco Bay Area, where whales are often observed in the same area where the coonstripe shrimp fishery is occurring.

Pursuant to Section 399 of the Fish and Game Code, the Commission finds that adopting this regulation is necessary for the immediate conservation, preservation, or protection of whale populations in California waters, and to limit the increase of marine life entanglement risk.

Informative Digest (Policy Statement Overview)

Existence of an Emergency and Need for Immediate Action

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) approved an emergency rulemaking, amending Section 180.15, Title 14, California Code of Regulations to address marine life entanglement risk in the coonstripe shrimp fishery. This amendment became effective on April 7, 2025. The emergency regulation was readopted for 90 days at the August 2025 Commission meeting.

The emergency regulatory action amended Section 180.15 in the following manner:

- Established a management boundary from the Sonoma/Mendocino county border northward to the California-Oregon border, and southward to the United States-Mexico border.
- Imposed a limit on the number of traps per groundline. The limit is 15 for the Northern fishery and 40 for the Southern fishery.
- Imposed a limit on the number of vertical lines per vessel. The limit is 180 for the Northern fishery and 60 for the Southern fishery
- Established a maximum depth limit of 30 fathoms for the Northern fishery.
- Repealed the existing control date of November 1, 2001, and established a new control date of February 13, 2025.

Though small in terms of commercial fishery landings in California, the coonstripe fishery provides significant income to its participants and the resource appears to be sustainable based on the stability of landings through time. It is important to Northern California fisherman who have been faced with delays and closures in the Dungeness crab, groundfish, and salmon fisheries. Prior to this emergency action, there were no limits to the number of fishery participants or the amount of gear that could be deployed, leading to the possibility of an unlimited increase of marine life entanglement risk given the overlap and time and space with historical whale migrations. This regulatory action limits additional gear usage by current fishery participants and allows the Commission to limit future participation in the fishery to reduce marine life entanglement risk.

The current emergency regulation Section 180.15, Title 14, CCR will expire on January 26, 2026 unless it is readopted for an additional 90 days. The readoption is needed to extend the emergency regulation until a standard rulemaking is completed. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff are developing a standard rulemaking to permanently enact the changes from the emergency rulemaking and introduce additional considerations. That rulemaking package is scheduled for a notice hearing before the Commission in December 2025, and to be effective prior to the 2026 fishing season, which starts May 1.

Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment by sustainably managing California's ocean resources by limiting the potential increase of marine life entanglement risk in the coonstripe shrimp fishery. The environmental risk arising from the regulation is not

regarded as significant, as the regulation manages the resource more conservatively than existing regulations.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations:

The Legislature may delegate to the Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature delegated regulation of the take of shrimp for commercial purposes to the Commission. The Commission conducted an evaluation of existing regulations, and this regulation is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

Proposed Emergency Regulatory Language (2nd Re-adopt)

Section 180.15, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read

§ 180.15. Coonstripe Shrimp (*Pandalus danae*) Fishing.

- (a) No person shall use a vessel to take, possess or land coonstripe shrimp for commercial purposes unless the owner of that vessel has been issued a coonstripe shrimp vessel trap permit for that vessel that has not been suspended or revoked.
- (b) The applicant for a permit shall submit the fees and the completed application, as specified in Section 705, to the address listed on the application.
- (c) Coonstripe shrimp may only be taken for commercial purposes by traps pursuant to this section and sections 180, 180.2, and 180.5, Title 14, CCR.
 - (1) Coonstripe shrimp may not be taken from November 1 through April 30.
 - (2) All coonstripe shrimp taken during the closed season shall immediately be returned to the water. No coonstripe shrimp shall be possessed or landed aboard any commercial fishing vessel during the closed season.
 - (3) Coonstripe shrimp traps may be set and baited no earlier than noon on April 30.
 - (4) All traps must be removed from the water prior to November 1, weather and sea conditions permitting. In the event that a owner or operator is unable to comply with this subsection, then the owner or operator shall send an email to the department's Law Enforcement Division at LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov no later than noon on October 31. The owner or operator must state the reason for the delay and the anticipated date of removal. Notification does not relieve the owner or operator of the responsibility for complying with this subsection unless approved by the department.
 - (5) Definitions
 - (A) Groundline. For the purposes of this regulation a groundline is defined as a line that connects a string of traps and may be anchored on one or both ends.
 - (B) Vertical lines. For the purposes of this regulation vertical lines are defined as lines that connect a buoy to a trap or string of traps.
 - (6) North of the Sonoma/Mendocino county line (38° 46.125' N. latitude) to the California/Oregon border:

- (A) No more than 15 traps shall be attached to a groundline, as defined in subsection (c)(5).
 - (B) No more than 180 vertical lines, as defined in subsection (c)(5), shall be deployed or possessed per vessel.
 - (C) Coonstripe shrimp traps shall not be set, placed or located seaward of the 30 fathom depth contour defined by connecting the appropriate set of waypoints adopted in Federal regulations and published in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations Part 660, Section 660.71 (Revised March 1, 2023) incorporated by reference herein.
- (7) South of the Sonoma/Mendocino county line (38° 46.125' N. latitude) to the U.S./Mexico border:
- (A) No more than 40 traps shall be attached to a groundline, as defined in subsection (c)(5).
 - (B) No more than 60 vertical lines, as defined in subsection (c)(5), shall be deployed or possessed per vessel.
- (d) A control date of February 13, 2025, is established for the purpose of considering a future restricted access coonstripe shrimp trap fishery. Landings on or after this date may not apply toward a permit in a future restricted access program for the coonstripe shrimp trap fishery if one is developed.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 713, 1050, 8591 and 8842, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 1050, 8590, 8591, 8595, 8842, 9001 and 9015, Fish and Game Code.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT NAME California Fish and Game Commission	CONTACT PERSON David Thesell	EMAIL ADDRESS fgc@fgc.ca.gov	TELEPHONE NUMBER 916 601-6201
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400 Amend Sect. 180.15 CCR, Title 14, Re: Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery Emergency Re-adopt 2			NOTICE FILE NUMBER Z

A. ESTIMATED PRIVATE SECTOR COST IMPACTS *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. Check the appropriate box(es) below to indicate whether this regulation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Impacts business and/or employees | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Imposes reporting requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Impacts small businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Impacts jobs or occupations | <input type="checkbox"/> g. Impacts individuals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Impacts California competitiveness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> h. None of the above (Explain below): |

Emergency action: no economic assessment; only fiscal impact assessment.***If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.******If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.***2. The _____ estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:
(Agency/Department)

- ☐ Below \$10 million
- ☐ Between \$10 and \$25 million
- ☐ Between \$25 and \$50 million
- ☐ Over \$50 million *[If the economic impact is over \$50 million, agencies are required to submit a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c)]*

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: _____

Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): _____

Enter the number or percentage of total
businesses impacted that are small businesses: _____

4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: _____ eliminated: _____

Explain: _____

5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: ☐ Statewide
☐ Local or regional (List areas): _____

6. Enter the number of jobs created: _____ and eliminated: _____

Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: _____

7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with
other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, explain briefly: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**B. ESTIMATED COSTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ _____

a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____

b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____

c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____

d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: _____

2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: _____

3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements.
Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted. \$ _____4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ _____

Number of units: _____

5. Are there comparable Federal regulations? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: _____

Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ _____

C. ESTIMATED BENEFITS *Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: _____

2. Are the benefits the result of: ☐ specific statutory requirements, or ☐ goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?

Explain: _____

3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ _____

4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: _____

D. ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record. Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. List alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
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ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:

Regulation: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

Alternative 1: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

Alternative 2: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives: _____

4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Explain: _____

E. MAJOR REGULATIONS *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.****California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are required to submit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4.***1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises **exceed \$10 million**? ☐ YES ☐ NO***If YES, complete E2. and E3******If NO, skip to E4***

2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed:

Alternative 1: _____

Alternative 2: _____

(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)

3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:

Regulation: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

Alternative 1: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

Alternative 2: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in or doing business in California exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary of State through 12 months after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?

☐ YES ☒ NO*If YES, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment \(SRIA\)](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.*

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: _____

The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: _____

The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 6 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

- ☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ _____

- ☐ a. Funding provided in _____

Budget Act of _____ or Chapter _____, Statutes of _____

- ☐ b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of _____

Fiscal Year: _____

- ☐ 2. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are NOT reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ _____

Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursable and provide the appropriate information:

- ☐ a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in _____

- ☐ b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the _____ Court.

Case of: _____ vs. _____

- ☐ c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. _____

Date of Election: _____

- ☐ d. Issued only in response to a specific request from affected local entity(s).

Local entity(s) affected: _____

- ☐ e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: _____

Authorized by Section: _____ of the _____ Code;

- ☐ f. Provides for savings to each affected unit of local government which will, at a minimum, offset any additional costs to each;

- ☐ g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in _____

- ☐ 3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ _____

- ☐ 4. No additional costs or savings. This regulation makes only technical, non-substantive or clarifying changes to current law regulations.

- ☒ 5. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program.

- ☐ 6. Other. Explain _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

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Draft Document**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)****B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

It is anticipated that State agencies will:☐ a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.☐ b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the _____ Fiscal Year☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain _____
_____**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain _____

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE

The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.

AGENCY SECRETARY



DATE

Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER



DATE

STD399 Addendum

Second Re-adoption of Emergency Action to Amend Section 180.15, Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery

Background

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) approved an emergency rulemaking amending Section 180.15, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) to address marine life entanglement risk in the commercial coonstripe shrimp fishery. The amendment of Section 180.15 became effective April 7, 2025. The emergency regulation was readopted for 90 days at the August 2025 Commission meeting.

Though small in terms of commercial fishery landings in California, the coonstripe fishery provides significant income to its participants and the resource appears to be sustainable based on the stability of landings through time. The fishery is important to northern California fisherman who have been faced with delays and closures in the Dungeness crab, groundfish, and salmon fisheries.

Proposed Regulations

Prior to the emergency action, there were no limits to the number of fishery participants or the amount of gear that could be deployed, leading to the possibility of an unlimited increase of marine life entanglement risk given the overlap and time and space with historical whale migrations. This regulatory action limits additional gear usage by current fishery participants and allows the Commission to limit future participation in the fishery to reduce marine life entanglement risk.

The current emergency regulation will expire on January 2, 2026, unless it is extended for an additional 90 days. The readoption is needed to extend the emergency regulation until a standard rulemaking is completed. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff are developing a standard rulemaking through a Certificate of Compliance action to permanently enact the changes from the emergency rulemaking and introduce additional considerations. That rulemaking package is scheduled for a notice hearing before the Commission in December 2025, and to be effective prior to the 2026 fishing season.

Economic Impact Statement

Section A. Estimated Private Sector Cost Impacts

1. Answer: h. None of the above. (Explain below):

Emergency regulations do not require an economic impact statement; only fiscal impacts must be evaluated (California Government Code Section 11346.1).

Fiscal Impact Statement

Section A. Fiscal Effect on Local Government

Answer: 5. No fiscal impact.

The Commission anticipates that the proposed emergency action will have no fiscal effect on any local government entity or program.

Section B. Fiscal Effect on State Government

Answer: 3. No fiscal impact.

The Commission anticipates that the proposed emergency action will have no fiscal effect on state government. The Department has determined that the proposed emergency action will not affect the Department's existing level of staff effort involved in monitoring the Coontripe Shrimp program, and law enforcement activities, nor would this action increase or decrease license or other fee revenue.

Additionally, no other state agencies or programs would be affected by this emergency regulatory action.

Section C. Fiscal Effect on Federal Funding of State Programs

Answer: 3. No fiscal impact.

The proposed emergency action will not have a fiscal effect on federal funding of state programs.