



SUB SEA SONICS AND GUARDIAN ROPELESS SYSTEMS ALTERNATIVE GEAR CONDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION

Pursuant to Section 132.8(i), Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), an Authorized Alternative Gear **may only be utilized within any closed Fishing Zone(s) during a Fishery Closure occurring on April 1 or later once authorized via Director Declaration. Users must also review current Alternative Gear General Conditions for Authorization which is required for all Alternative Gear Types.**

LIMITATIONS OF USE

Pursuant to Section 132.8(i), Title 14, CCR, Alternative Gear Authorizations may be constrained by one or more of the following:

1) Alternative Gear Approved for Use:

- a. Only the Sub Sea Sonics Acoustic Release Pop-up Systems units and configurations listed on this Alternative Gear Conditional Authorization are approved for use (*see photos below*). Any deviation from the gear types below are not approved under this authorization.
 - i. AR4RT
 - ii. AR4RT+
 - iii. DAR4RT

2) Limited to a Fishing Zone

- a. This Authorized Alternative Gear is approved for use between Fishing Zone 1: California/Oregon border (42° N. latitude) to Fishing Zone 5: Point Conception (34° 27' N. latitude) when authorized via a Director Declaration.

3) Limited to a Maximum Number of Traps

- a. The maximum number of traps each authorized vessel may use, possess, or deploy at any time when attempting to take crab shall not exceed the vessel's permitted tier as allocated by Section 132.1(c), Title 14, CCR. This limitation shall not apply to lost or abandoned gear recovered pursuant to Sections 132.2 and 132.7, Title 14, CCR.
- b. The maximum number of traps deployed per string on a single groundline shall not exceed 25. For purposes of this section, a groundline is defined as one common line or string that connects a string of traps and shall be anchored on one or both ends.

4) Other Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance

- a. *Gear Specifications and Marking Requirements*
 - i. The groundline shall be non-floating.
 - ii. Following release of the pop-up mechanism, the location of each single trap or at least one terminal end of each string of traps shall be indicated by the presence of one or two buoys at the surface.
 - iii. All buoys shall be marked with the operator's commercial fishing license identification number (CFL) and the Alternative Gear Identification (AGI) "AG1". All CFL numbers shall be at least 1.5 inches in height and drawn with a line no less than 0.25 inch thick. The AGI shall be at least 3 inches in height and drawn with a line no less than 0.25 inch thick. Buoys that are 4 inches in diameter or greater shall have AG1 marked on four opposing sides. Buoys that are



smaller than 4 inches in diameter shall have the AG1 marked on two opposing sides.

- iv. An Authorized Alternative Gear fishing system consisting of a containment unit, single line, and at most two buoys (a main buoy and optional trailer buoy) shall be connected to at least one terminal end of each string of traps.
 - v. An Authorized Alternative Gear pop-up fishing system consisting of containment unit, single line, and at most two buoys (a main buoy and optional trailer buoy) shall not be considered a “trap” for the purposes of this conditional authorization.
 - vi. Persistent vertical lines (lines in the water column) are prohibited under this authorization except during recall for retrieval.
- b. *Back-Up Retrieval*
- i. All Authorized Alternative Gear users must have grappling equipment onboard to retrieve the Authorized Alternative Gear in the event of an equipment failure.
- c. *Virtual Gear Marking*
- i. The Trap Timer application will be used to meet the virtual gear marking requirements as described in the Alternative Gear General Conditions for Authorization.
 - ii. Each pop-up unit shall have ping verification which allows the Department to confirm that the trap string is at the marked location using the Trap Timer application.
 - iii. The location of each string must also be viewable by the public and accessible via an online application as described in the Alternative Gear General Conditions for Authorization.

5) Amendments and Deauthorization

- a. The Department will review and may amend these Alternative Gear Conditions for Authorization on an annual basis or, at its discretion, in the event of unforeseen circumstances that require immediate changes to ensure enforceability or that the authorized gear does not present an entanglement risk of Actionable Species listed in Section 132.8(a), Title 14, CCR. The Department will notify the applicant and Fleet in the event of an amendment no less than 8 days prior to the amendment(s) taking effect.
- b. The Department, at its sole discretion, may deauthorize an Authorized Alternative Gear if that equipment no longer meets the criteria listed in Section 132.8(i)(1)(B), Title 14, CCR. If deauthorization occurs during the Fishing Season, the Fleet will be notified by the Department and will have 8 days to remove Alternative Gear from every Fishing Zone or by the end of the Fishing Season, whichever occurs first.



Authorized Alternative Gear: Note that any deviation from the gear types below are not approved under this authorization

Sub Sea Sonics Acoustic Release Pop-up System: AR4RT, AR4RT+ and DAR4RT Release Units



Figure 1. Sub Sea Sonics AR4RT (right) and AR4RT+ (left) acoustic release units.

Guardian Ropeless Systems: Inshore Sled, Crab Pot Sled, Mid-water Sled, and Trap-Top Retrofit.



Figure 2. Guardian Inshore Sled (left), Mid-water Sled (middle left), Crab Pot Sled (middle right) and Trap-Top Retrofit (right).

Sub Sea Sonics ARI-U and ARI-U-BTO variant Deck Box and TD-60 with over-the-side in-hull and thru-hull variants transducer:



Figure 2. ARI-U deck box and TD-60