

Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026

12C. Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Major Amendment Request (#2023-04)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Receive, consider, and potentially act upon a major amendment to an EFP (Commission tracking ID #2023-04) approved to test longlining traditional gear in the California Dungeness crab fishery.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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|---|-----------------------------|
| • Approved EFP application #2023-04 | February 12-13, 2025 |
| • Department received major amendment request | January 7, 2026 |
| • Department transmitted accepted EFP major amendment request to Commission | January 8, 2026 |
| • Department transmitted recommendation for EFP major amendment to Commission | January 9, 2026 |
| • Published notice of receipt of Department recommendation | January 12, 2026 |
| • Today, discuss and consider approving EFP major amendment request | February 11-12, 2026 |

Background

The Commission and Department jointly administer the EFP Program, authorized by the California Fisheries Innovation Act of 2018 (California Fish and Game Code Section 1022) and implemented through Section 91, Title 14. The program fosters innovation in California's marine fisheries by allowing limited, short-term exemptions from state fishing laws to test new management approaches or conduct research. Learn more about the program, at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/EFP> and <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP>.

Approved EFP Application

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission approved EFP application #2023-04 from the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) and California Coast Crab Association, to test traditional Dungeness crab gear using longlines (a modified configuration of multiple traps connected by a groundline) retrieved by a grapple hook, thereby eliminating vertical lines (without use of pop-up gear).

EFP holders can request amendments (administrative updates, minor, or major) per subsection 91(k)(2). The Department approves administrative updates and minor amendments. Major amendments (affecting species, location, gear, or participants) require Commission approval and are subject to the same review and approval process as new applications.

EFP Major Amendment Request Overview

This is the first major amendment request for the EFP with Commission tracking ID #2023-04 (Exhibit 1). In January 2026, the Department notified the Commission of the major amendment request. Consistent with regulatory requirements, the Commission noticed the public of its

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receipt of the Department's recommendations (exhibits 2 and 3) on January 12, which was 30 days prior to today's hearing.

The EFP holder seeks to allow additional testing under conditions that more closely resemble full authorization of using grapples to retrieve longlined Dungeness crab gear without vertical lines. There are four requested changes to (1) increase traps per vessel, (2) increase traps per string, (3) increase authorized agents and vessels, and (4) enable transit through marine protected areas (MPAs).

The Department recommends approval of all requests, with additional revisions to the special terms and conditions for two of the requests (exhibits 2 and 3). The draft amended special conditions (Exhibit 3) incorporate the Department's recommendations as well as a minor amendment previously approved by the Department under subsection 91(k)(2).

Traps Per Vessel

- Request: Increase the maximum number of traps from 160 per vessel to the vessel's permitted tier.
 - Rationale: Allow additional testing under conditions that more closely resemble full authorization of their methodology.
- Recommendation: Approve and add a requirement that each vessel affix the buoy tags, assigned pursuant to subsection 132.1(c), inside each trap.
 - Rationale: This additional requirement will enable enforcement of the proposed change in the number of traps allowed under the vessel's permitted tier

Transit Flexibility

- Request: Authorization to transit through MPAs
 - Rationale: Ensures that the ability to transit MPAs as addressed during the 2025 season remains in place.
- Recommendation: Approve with additional revisions to the draft Form DFW 1103 to include explicit requirements for transit through (e.g., continuous transit, gear stowed and secured) and anchorage in MPAs.
 - Rationale: This change addresses concerns about safety at sea by allowing vessels to transit through and anchor within MPAs when an authorized agent encounters bad weather, consistent with amendments to other EFPs. It also helps avoid added time and fuel costs associated with detouring around MPAs. At the same time, the changes maintain the Department Marine Enforcement District's ability to enforce the MPA regulations effectively.

Today, the Department will present the requested amendments, its recommendations, rationale for the recommendations, and proposed special conditions for Commission consideration (Exhibit 4).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

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Recommendation

Commission staff: Approve the EFP major amendment request with modifications and proposed special conditions, as recommended by the Department.

Department: Approve PCFFA's and California Coast Crab Association's EFP (Commission tracking ID #2023-04) major amendment request with proposed special conditions as specified on Form DFW 1103 (Exhibit 3).

Exhibits

1. [Major amendment request, transmitted to Commission on January 8, 2026](#)
2. [Department recommendation memo, received January 9, 2026](#)
3. [Draft Form DFW 1103, including standard terms and proposed amended special conditions for major amendment](#)
4. [Department presentation](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the major amendment request for the EFP (Commission tracking ID #2023-04) with special conditions as recommended by the Department.

OR

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the major amendment request for the EFP (Commission tracking ID #2023-04) with special conditions as recommended by the Department, except as follows: _____.



Outlook

RE: EFP Major Amendment - [REDACTED]

From Bartling, Ryan@Wildlife [REDACTED]
Date Wed 1/7/2026 12:10 PM
To Lisa Damrosch-PCFFA [REDACTED]
Cc Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program <efp@wildlife.ca.gov>

Thank you for confirming.

Ryan

From: Lisa Damrosch-PCFFA [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 12:03 PM
To: Bartling, Ryan@Wildlife [REDACTED]
Cc: Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program <efp@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: EFP Major Amendment - [REDACTED]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Thanks, Ryan. Yes, I am considering a participant and a vessel to be one and the same.

On Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 11:46 AM Bartling, Ryan@Wildlife [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Lisa,

Thank you for submitting this request. Can you please confirm that the increase in participants to 120 would also align with an increase to 120 vessels participating. Just want to be clear in pulling this amendment together.

Thank you
Ryan

From: Lisa Damrosch-PCFFA [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 10:33 AM
To: Wildlife Experimental Fishing Permit Program <efp@wildlife.ca.gov>
Subject: EFP Major Amendment - [REDACTED]

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello-

This email is to request a major amendment to [REDACTED]. We are requesting 3 changes.

- 1- Number of Participants- Request 120
- 2- Total amount of traps- Full Tier
- 3- Number of traps per string- 25

We also need to ensure that the ability to transit the MPA that was addressed during the 2025 season remains in place.

I will go into the system now to make the payment, and I will let you know if there are any technical issues.

Thanks
Lisa

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From: Lisa Damrosch-PCFFA <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 9:02 PM
To: Newell, Caroline@FGC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Bartling, Ryan@Wildlife <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Long Line with Traditional Gear EFP Rationale

Hi Caroline-

I was asked to send you some additional information about our application for an amendment that is being heard at the February Meeting. I hope this is what you need, if there is anything else at all, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Rationale:

PCFFA is an organization of commercial fishermen committed to ensuring fair access and cost-effective opportunities for all permit holders to harvest Dungeness crab following an April 1 closure of the fishery due to entanglement risk.

CDFW has authorized the use of a grapple to retrieve longlined Dungeness crab gear as a secondary retrieval method for pop up and on demand gear types. PCFFA believes grappling should also be authorized based on successful testing as both a primary and secondary retrieval method under prior EFP activity. However, because testing as a primary method was limited by CDFW's EFP approval timeline in 2025, the Department is now requiring a second year of testing to expand the data set before authorizing its use.

This amendment is intended to allow additional testing under conditions that more closely resemble full authorization.

Thanks

Lisa

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Memorandum

Date: January 9, 2026

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

From: Craig Shuman
Regional Manager
Marine Region

Subject: **Transmittal of an Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Major Amendment Recommendation for Longlining Traditional Gear for Dungeness crab (Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and California Coast Crab Association; Commission Tracking #2023-04)**

On January 7, 2025, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and California Coast Crab Association submitted a Major Amendment Request for EFP #2023-04 (Attachment 1) which includes revisions to expand the scope of approved fishing activities and revise existing EFP Terms and Conditions. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) accepted the request for technical review on January 8, 2025, and recommends the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) approve the requested changes as further detailed in the Recommended EFP Terms and Conditions (DFW1103, Attachment 2) and supplemental environmental documentation (Attachments 3 and 4).

Next Steps

The Department requests the Commission schedule the requested amendment for consideration at least 30 days after public notice is given. The Department has prepared a draft Notice of Receipt of Recommendation (Attachment 5) to support the public notice requirement prescribed in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 91, subdivision (e)(2).

If you have any questions on this item, please contact me at (805) 568-1246 or by email at R7RegionalMgr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachments:

1. Major Amendment Request for EFP #2023-04 (confidential information omitted)
2. Recommended EFP Terms and Conditions (DFW 1103)
3. CEQA Overview Memo
4. Draft CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) and NOE Attachment
5. Draft Notice of Receipt of Recommendation

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
January 9, 2026
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cc: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Eric Kord, Assistant Chief
Marine Enforcement Division

Garrett Wheeler, Attorney III
Office of General Counsel

Joanna Grebel, Environmental Program Manager
Marine Region

Claire Waggoner, Environmental Program Manager
Marine Region

Morgan Ivens-Duran, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Marine Region

Caroline Newell, Environmental Scientist
California Fish and Game Commission



Experimental Fishing Permit No. [REDACTED]

Revision Date:

MARINE FISHERIES: EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 1022 and Section 91, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), the Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) holder is authorized to conduct experimental fishing activities according to the requirements of the EFP approved by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department).

EFP Holder/Entity Administrator Name: **Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's (PCFFA) and California Coastal Crab Association (CCCA); EFP Holder**

Lisa Damrosch ([REDACTED] ; Entity Administrator)

EFP Holder Address:

[REDACTED]

Entity Administrator Address:

[REDACTED]

Authorized Agent Name:

See authorized agent list on Page 3

Authorized Agent Address:

See authorized agent list on Page 3

Vessel Name and ID #:

See authorized agent list on Page 3

Description of authorized activity:

Testing and commercial use of "longlined" crab traps (i.e., multiple traps connected by a common groundline) with grapple-only retrieval in the California Dungeness crab fishery. The experimental fishing activities may only be conducted under the following conditions.

STANDARD TERMS

These standard terms shall apply to all persons or vessels conducting activities under the EFP.

1. The permit shall be operated only on the vessels named on this form, if applicable. Either the EFP holder or the authorized agent must be aboard the vessel when activities are being conducted under this permit, and both are responsible and accountable for meeting the requirements and limits of this permit.
2. Pursuant to FGC Section 7857(d), the EFP holder or authorized agent shall have a valid copy of the Department issued EFP attached to a signed copy of this form in possession when activities are being conducted under this permit.
3. All persons conducting activities under an EFP must comply with all appropriate state and federal fishing laws and regulations, including but not limited to those relating to protected species, minimum size limits, and seasons or areas closed to fishing that are not otherwise exempted by the permit (see special conditions).



4. The EFP holder and authorized agent shall cooperate with the Department by allowing personnel designated by the Department to board the fishing vessel on any fishing trip (if applicable) or enter a place of business operated by the EFP holder or authorized agent under this permit, to retrieve, observe, or inspect any logbook, records, data, equipment, procedures, or catch throughout the duration of the permit.
5. The EFP holder or authorized agent shall provide Department staff with a 24-hour notice prior to every fishing trip. The contact information for Department staff will be provided for this purpose at the time of permit issuance.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

As set forth in subsection 91(i), Title 14, CCR, special conditions may be placed on this permit for research purposes and the conservation and management of marine resources and the environment (see following page).

As set forth in subsection 91(k), Title 14, CCR, special conditions may be amended or repealed as necessary for research purposes and the conservation and management of marine resources and the environment.

RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The permit is not valid until the EFP holder has certified by their signature below that they have: 1) read and understand the standard terms and special conditions of the permit; 2) unless otherwise specified in special conditions, paid the appropriate fees specified in Section 704, Title 14, CCR; and 3) returned a signed copy of this form to the Department.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all standard terms and special conditions of this permit.

EFP Holder Signature

Date

Received by License and Revenue Branch (LRB)

Fee \$ _____

Experimental Fishing Permit No. _____

Revision Date _____

LRB Signature: _____ Date: _____



Experimental Fishing Permit No. [REDACTED]

Revision Date:

Authorization and Special Conditions

List of approved special conditions, names, and addresses of any additional authorized agents, and/or names and identification number of any additional authorized vessels.

Key Participants

1. **Authorized Agents and Vessels:** This EFP is valid only for the authorized agents and vessels named below. The Department may allow up to a maximum of 40 120 authorized agents and 40 120 vessels for this EFP, as it is deemed necessary for research purposes. The addition of any authorized agents or vessels shall be approved by the Department via a minor amendment.

a. Authorized Agent Name and Address

1. Richard Ogg ([REDACTED]) - Owner/Operator F/V Karen Jeanne
[REDACTED]
2. Bill Blue ([REDACTED]) - Owner/Operator F/V Brita Michella
[REDACTED]
3. Ben Platt ([REDACTED]) - Owner/Operator F/V Miss Heidi
[REDACTED]
4. Paul Wedel ([REDACTED]) – Owner/Operator F/V Debbie Marie
[REDACTED]
5. Robert Maharry ([REDACTED]) – Owner/Operator F/V Migrator
[REDACTED]
6. Cody Wakefield ([REDACTED]) – Owner/Operator F/V Taurus
[REDACTED]
7. Lorne Edwards ([REDACTED]) – Owner/Operator F/V Outsider
[REDACTED]
8. Justin Davis ([REDACTED]) – Owner/Operator F/V Nightwind
[REDACTED]
9. Bradford Wilcox ([REDACTED]) – Owner/Operator F/V Rowyn O
[REDACTED]

b. Authorized Project Vessel

1. F/V Karen Jeanne ([REDACTED])
2. F/V Brita Michelle ([REDACTED])
3. F/V Miss Heidi [REDACTED]
4. F/V Debbie Marie ([REDACTED])
5. F/V Migrator ([REDACTED])



6. F/V Taurus ()
7. F/V Outsider ()
8. F/V Nightwind ()
9. F/V Rowyn O ()

General

2. All parties (as specified in Condition 1, above) operating under the authority of this permit must be informed of and agree to abide by all standard terms and special conditions of this permit. EFP holders, authorized agents, and any person assisting with activities occurring under the authority of the EFP shall be liable for any violations of the Fish and Game Code and regulations adopted thereto pertaining to experimental fishing, including violations of permit terms or conditions.
3. For the purposes of this EFP the terms “Dungeness crab” and “rock crab” are as defined in FGC Section 8275. The terms “EFP gear” is defined as any trap, line, anchor, weight, or any other device used to take or possess any authorized species pursuant to this EFP.
4. All authorized agents, vessels, and any person assisting the authorized agents must have the appropriate permits and licenses pursuant to FGC Sections 7850, 8280.1, 9001 and Section 125 Title 14 CCR, prior to engaging in any commercial fishing operations authorized by this permit.
5. The authorized agent shall possess a valid commercial boat registration issued pursuant to FGC Section 7881, for the vessel named above and display the Department Boat Registration numbers in plain sight on each side of the vessel pursuant to FGC Section 7880.
6. All authorized agents shall only participate in one EFP per fishing trip when participating in multiple EFPs.
7. No other EFP or commercial fishing activities shall take place on the same trip as this EFP.

Authorized Species, Take, and Landing Requirements

8. Authorized agents may only retain Dungeness and rock crab. Authorized agents may fish for Dungeness crab and rock crab within the same trip if the authorized agent holds valid permits for those species. Unless specifically exempted by this EFP, authorized agents must adhere to all other regulations regarding the take of these species.
9. No Dungeness crab less than six and one-quarter (6¼) inches in breadth, and no female Dungeness crab, may be taken, possessed, bought, or sold. Dungeness crab shall be measured by the shortest distances through the body from the edge of shell to edge of shell directly from front of points (lateral spines).
10. Pursuant to FGC Section 8282(a), rock crab less than 4 and one-quarter (4 ¼) inches measured in a straight line through the body, from edge of shell to edge of shell at the widest part, shall not be taken, possessed, bought or sold.



11. When a trap is pulled to the surface, authorized agents shall immediately and without delay (a) empty the trap and (b) measure and sort crab catch by sex. All female Dungeness crab, or undersized Dungeness or rock crab, shall be returned to the water immediately and concurrent to additional traps being pulled to the surface. All catch other than Dungeness and rock crab will be returned to the ocean immediately. Authorized agents shall make all reasonable efforts to return incidental catch alive.
12. All landing receipts must have the state EFP number recorded in the “State Permit #” field (in EFPTX-00X format), be transmitted within 24-hours, and comply with all other requirements in Section 197, Title 14, CCR.
13. Traps fished under the authority of this EFP are exempted from the 96-hour trap service interval specified in FCG Section 9004. Authorized agents shall service (i.e., raise, clean, ensure mechanisms are properly functioning, and empty) their traps at intervals not to exceed 168 hours. If an authorized agent is unable to comply with these requirements due to hazardous conditions at sea, mechanical breakdown of their vessel, or another circumstances, they must notify the Department as soon as possible via email to the Department’s Law Enforcement Division (LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov) and Marine Region (WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov).

Allowable Fishing Area and Time of Year

14. Traps may only be placed in the water between the California/Oregon border (42° N. latitude) and Point Conception (34° 27' N. latitude), and no traps or gear shall be placed in the water or used seaward of the 100-fathom line as defined in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 660.
15. EFP fishing activities shall only occur in Fishing Zones (as defined in subsection 132.8(a), Title 14, CCR) following an early season closure pursuant to Section 132.8, Title 14, CCR. Take, possession, and landing are prohibited when a season is delayed pursuant to Section 132.8, Title 14, CCR. All non-EFP gear shall be removed from closed Fishing Zones by the effective date of the closure and prior to commencing any EFP fishing activities.
16. Notwithstanding Condition 24, by 11:59pm seven days before the last day of the fishing season as defined in FGC Section 8276, authorized agents are required to remove at least 50% of their deployed Dungeness crab EFP traps from state waters. Deployed EFP traps will be determined based on the most recent report submitted pursuant to Attachment A Item 1.
17. Authorized agents must remove all Dungeness crab traps from state waters by 11:59 pm on the last day of the fishing season, as defined in FGC Section 8276(d).
18. Dungeness crab may only be taken, possessed, or landed during the statutory season and subject to domoic acid and quality take restrictions pursuant to FGC Sections 5523, 8276, and 8276.2. This permit exempts the agent from an early season closure pursuant to Section 132.8, Title 14, CCR, however, take, possession, and landing are prohibited when a season is delayed pursuant to Section 132.8, Title 14, CCR.
19. The possession, take, and landing of rock crab is subject to domoic acid restrictions pursuant to FGC Section 5523.



20. Authorized agents must suspend fishing operations or move fishing gear per Department direction in response to circumstances including elevated entanglement risk or in the event of an entanglement report in the fishing or testing location. The Department will provide notice by contacting each authorized agent via the phone and/or email address provided by the EFP holder.
21. Fishing operations shall abide by all applicable Essential Fish Habitat closures for bottom contact gear as described in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 660, Subpart F.
22. To allow for transit through and safe anchorage in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the following provisions apply:
- a. ~~Authorized agents and authorized project vessels shall not place EFP gear traps, transit through, or drift within any state Marine Protected Areas MPA designated pursuant to Section 632, Title 14, CCR at any time during the approved fishing season designated in Items 15 and 17, regardless of the reason. Except, authorized agents and authorized project vessels may transit through the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area as designated pursuant to Section 632, Title 14, CCR while departing from or returning to port with gear stowed.~~
 - b. Except for purposes of continuous transit, or transit to a designated anchorage, no vessel shall enter an MPA when the vessel owner or operator is using, has placed in the water, or is in possession of any EFP gear or Dungeness crab traps defined in FGC Section 9011(a)(2), or is in possession of Dungeness crab.
 - c. For purposes of this EFP, “continuous transit” is defined as transiting through any MPA on a heading as close as practicable to a direct route, without stopping or delaying, and maintaining speeds greater than three knots at all times during transit. All fishing gear shall be stowed and secured in such a manner that it is rendered unusable, ensuring that traps do not contain bait inside or have bait attached.
 - d. Any vessel transiting through an MPA at any time while possessing or using EFP gear or Dungeness crab traps defined in FGC Section 9011(a)(2), or is in possession of Dungeness crab, is prohibited from entering within 1,000 yards of any boundary line for that same MPA except for the purpose of continuous transit or transit to a designated anchorage. This transiting only provision for that specific MPA and the 1000 yard zone shall apply to such vessel for the remainder of the statutory season for Dungeness crab pursuant to FGC section 8276.
 - e. Anchorage: When a vessel’s owner or operator is using, has placed in the water, or is in possession of EFP gear or Dungeness crab traps defined in FGC Section 9011(a)(2), or is in possession of Dungeness crab, the following limitations apply: Within MPAs, the vessel shall only anchor, moor, or dock in the designated anchorage areas defined below. Any vessel anchored within a designated MPA anchorage shall have fishing gear stowed and secured in such a manner that it is rendered unusable, ensuring that traps do not contain bait inside or have bait attached. Vessels transiting through an MPA to a designated MPA anchorage shall adhere to continuous transit requirements defined above. The designated MPA anchorage areas are:



1. Point Reyes State Marine Reserve Anchorage: The anchorage area within the Point Reyes State Marine Reserve is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points: 38° 01.900'N lat., 122° 56.400'W long.; and 37° 59.400'N lat., 122° 57.800'W long.
2. Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve Anchorage: The anchorage area within the Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve, excluding the area defined as the Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure in subsection 632(b), is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points: 37° 42.250'N lat., 123° 00.170'W long.; 37° 42.250'N lat., 122° 59.500'W long.; 37° 41.000'N lat., 122° 59.500'W long.; 37° 41.000'N lat., 123° 00.200'W long.; and 37° 41.759'N lat., 123° 00.200'W long.
3. Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve and Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area Anchorage: The anchorage area within the Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve and Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points: 37° 07.000'N lat., 122° 19.900'W long.; 37° 04.000'N lat., 122° 17.000'W long.; and 37° 04.000'N lat., 122° 15.400'W long.
4. Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area Anchorage: The anchorage, mooring, or docking areas within the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area includes the area below mean high tide within Morro Bay east of the Morro Bay entrance breakwater and west of longitude 120° 50.340' W.

Gear Allowances, Specifications, and Marking Requirements

23. Deployed gear shall include a trap tag as defined in subsection 132.1(a), Title 14, CCR.
24. ~~A maximum of 160 traps per vessel may be used, possessed or deployed at any time per trip when taking or attempting to take crab.~~ 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 subsection 132.1(c), Title 14, CCR. A buoy tag assigned to the permitted vessel shall be affixed to the inside of each trap. This limitation shall not apply to lost or abandoned gear recovered pursuant to Sections 132.2 and 132.7, Title 14, CCR.
25. This permit exempts the authorized agent from the prohibition of using a common line to attach Dungeness crab traps in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9, as specified in FGC Section 9012(b). No more than ~~20~~ 25 traps shall be connected by a common groundline; i.e. each ~~“trawl” string~~ will have a maximum length of ~~20~~ 25 traps.
26. Authorized agents are exempt from the requirements to mark each trap with a buoy as defined pursuant to FGC Section 9005 and subsections 132.6(a) and 180.5, Title 14, CCR.
27. All traps must comply with the requirements specified in FGC Section 9011 for Dungeness crab or rock crab. All traps used or deployed must have at least one destruct device pursuant to FGC Section 9003 and Section 180.2, Title 14, CCR.



28. The EFP holder shall provide the Department access to the gear marking web-based applications as identified in the EFP application (i.e., EdgeTech Trap Tracker) for data sharing and enforcement purposes.

Other Requirements

29. No EFP activities may take place unless a functioning Archipelago FishVue LIME electronic monitoring system is installed and used as specified by the Department. Every authorized agent shall ensure that their system is functioning normally and transmitting location data at all times when conducting activities under this EFP. Whenever regular data transmission is interrupted, or the authorized agent is notified by the Department that data are not being received, the vessel shall return to port immediately until regular data transmission resumes. The authorized agent shall also immediately notify the Department's Law Enforcement Division of the interruption via email to LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov and may request an extension of the trap service intervals designated pursuant to FGC Section 9004.
30. 24 hours prior to commencing a fishing trip during which EFP activity is expected to be conducted, notice of vessel name, targeted fishery, anticipated fishing dates, port of departure, and expected landing port shall be made via email to the Department's Law Enforcement Division (LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov) and Marine Region (WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov). At the request and convenience of the Department, authorized agents shall coordinate with the Department and allow for inspections of the traps and associated gear prior to deployment or when gear is being serviced at sea. This includes use of the authorized vessel to pull gear if requested by the Department.
31. Authorized agents shall follow the best practices for avoiding whale entanglement posted on the Department's Whale Safe Fisheries webpage: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/marine/whale-safe-fisheries>. This includes fishing gear and incident reporting requirements.
32. Prior to commencing at-sea testing, permittee shall ensure all authorized agents have completed the freely available Level 1 entanglement response training provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service, available at <https://west-coast-training.whaledisentanglement.org>. Permittee shall provide screen shots documenting course completion to the EFP Coordinator (EFP@wildlife.ca.gov), Department's Law Enforcement Division (LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov) and Marine Region (WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov). Once available, official course completion emails shall be forwarded to the EFP Coordinator (EFP@wildlife.ca.gov), Department's Law Enforcement Division (LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov) and Marine Region (WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov).
33. The permittee shall provide training to Department personnel on any aspect of the permitted project on request.
34. The vessel shall be capable of safely carrying an observer when requested by the Department and provide that observer with accommodations equivalent to those provided to the captain and crew for both single and multi-day trips if multi-day trips are conducted. The observer shall be permitted to collect additional opportunistic biological data.



35. The permittee shall comply with data reporting requirements as described in Attachment A. Reports shall be submitted via email to the Department's Law Enforcement Division (LEDMarineNotifications@wildlife.ca.gov), Marine Region (WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov), and EFP Coordinator (EFP@wildlife.ca.gov).
36. Unless otherwise specified by the Department, the permittee shall submit the annual and final reports required by subsection 91(l), Title 14, CCR to the EFP Coordinator (EFP@wildlife.ca.gov) no later than 60 days after the permit expiration date.



Attachment A: Data Reporting Requirements

1. **Deployment Data.** Permittee or authorized agent shall provide to the Department as soon as practical, but no more than 12 hours after recovery or attempted recovery, the following data for each set of deployed traps (i.e., multi-trap “trawl” connected by a common groundline):
 - a. The latitude and longitude of the first and last trap in each trawl, given to the highest precision allowed by onboard instrumentation.
 - b. The number and configuration of traps in the trawl.
 - c. The name and vessel ID of the vessel the trap was deployed from.
 - d. The experimental fishing permit number the trap is deployed under.
 - e. The time and date of deployment.
2. **Recovery Data.** Permittee or authorized agent shall provide to the Department as soon as practical, but no more than 12 hours after recovery or attempted recovery, the following data for each set of deployed traps (i.e., multi-trap “trawl” connected by a common groundline):
 - a. The time and date of recovery.
 - b. The location the gear was recovered.
 - c. The distance between the location where the gear was deployed and recovered.
3. **Gear Location Marking.** The permittee or authorized agent shall make fishing locations publicly available to other fishers and the public subject to direction of the Department. Communication of fishing location may include notification to local harbor districts and to the Department’s web pages, and/or other publicly accessible web pages. Via the Trap Tracker gear marking app the permittee or authorized agent shall make available the following information for the purpose of avoiding gear conflict:
 - a. The location of the first and last traps in a trawl, as well as an indication that they are part of a trawl.
4. **Lost Gear Information.** Unrecovered gear shall be reported via email to the Department as soon as possible, but not more than 12 hours after initial attempted recovery. This report shall contain:
 - a. The number of traps in the trawl and the location of the first and last traps.
 - b. The name and vessel ID of the vessel the trap was deployed from.
 - c. The experimental fishing permit number the trap was deployed under.
 - d. The time and date the gear was last serviced.
 - e. Summary of attempted recovery efforts.
 - f. Reason for loss (if known).
5. In addition to the requirements of subsection 91(l), Title 14, CCR, annual and final reports shall include:
 - a. A table or other database containing deployment and recovery data (requirements 1 and 2 of Attachment A) for each trip conducted under the authority of this permit.



- b. A summary of landing data including the number of each crab species landed at each port by each vessel.
- c. The number of trips conducted by each vessel participating in the EFP, the total number of trap deployments, and the number of unsuccessful recoveries.
- d. A summary of the efforts taken to recover lost gear, and the outcome of those efforts.



Longline with Traditional Gear Experimental Fishing Permit Major Amendment

February 11, 2026

Presented to:

California Fish and Game Commission

Presented by:

Ryan Bartling
Senior ES Supervisor
Marine Region



Overview

- Overview of EFP
- EFP amendment requests
- Proposed Terms and Conditions
- CDFW recommendation



Overview of Longline EFP

- CA/OR border to Pt Conception
- Multiple traps connected by a common groundline
- Maximum of 160 traps per vessel
- Maximum of 20 traps per string
- No pop-ups - grappling only
- Dungeness crab fishery





Crab Gear Configuration



Figure Credit: Ellie Brauer

Figure 1. Proposed Dungeness crab trap configuration, traditional traps connected by a common ground line



EFP Major Amendment Requests

- Increase participants to 120
- Allow fisherman to fish their full permit tier
- Increase number of traps per string to 25



Photo credit: CDFW



Proposed Terms and Conditions

Requested Conditions	Department Proposed Conditions
Increase number of participants from 40 to 120	Allow 120 participants
Increase number of pots up to permitted tier from 160	Allow number of pots up to permitted tier
Increase traps per string to from 20 to 25	Increase traps per string to 25
Enable Marine Protected Area transiting/anchoring	Allow with specific requirements



Recommendation

Approval of Major Amendment with Proposed
Department Special Conditions

Thank You

For additional information please contact:

EFP@wildlife.ca.gov

