

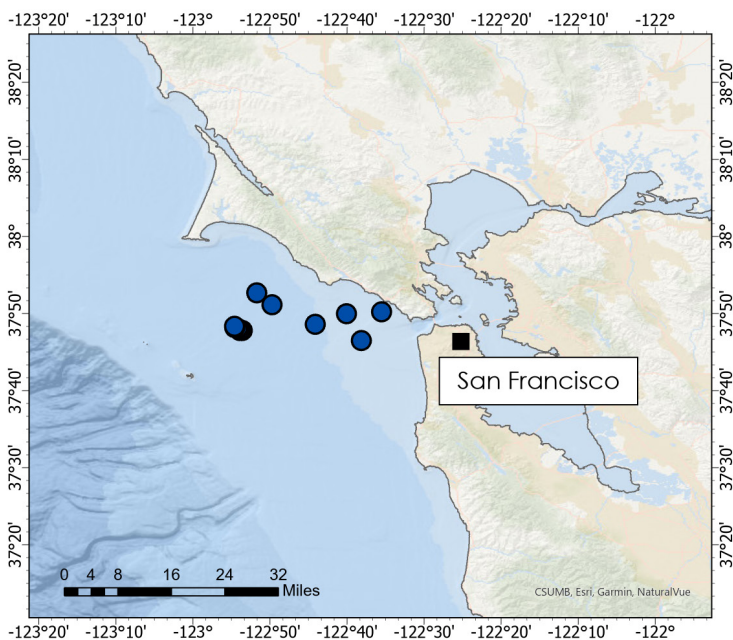


Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval During 2025

Recovery of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear is an important strategy to reduce marine life entanglement risk. Retrieval can occur either through the formal CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program or through voluntary efforts by the Dungeness crab fishery.

CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program

The CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program was established in September 2019 (§132.7, Title 14, CCR). Under the program, CDFW issues permits to qualified entities (Retrieval Permittees) who oversee removal of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear by commercial trap fishermen (Designated Retrievers). If reasonable compensation cannot be negotiated with the original owner, the Retrieval Permittee keeps the gear and may request reimbursement from CDFW. CDFW costs are covered by a per-trap fee paid by the original owner. All retrieval activities are documented on a logbook submitted to CDFW.



By The Numbers

- Retrieval Permits Issued: 1
- Active Designated Retrievers: 2
- Retrieval Trips: 2
- Retrieved Traps: 18
- Dungeness crab vessels with retrieved traps: 7
- Avg. traps per Dungeness crab vessel: 2.6

In 2025, Gear was retrieved outside of San Francisco. Confirmed locations of retrieved gear are shown in the map above.

Voluntary Retrieval Efforts

§132.2, Title 14, CCR also allows for recovery of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear by commercial Dungeness crab vessels. Unlike the CDFW program, compensation is not guaranteed. As of 2025, Individuals who retrieve lost gear voluntarily are required to report information about the retrieved gear to lostgear@wildlife.ca.gov.