



Tracking Number: (2025-19)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission’s authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Gary Maganaris, Coastside Fishing Club Board Member on behalf of all members of Coastside Fishing Club. This petition is also being requested by Duane Winter, President of the Tye Club on behalf of all Tye Club members..

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 399, 7075 and 7078, Fish and Game Code

Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: **Amendment to Recreational Crab Trap Buoy Regulations to Reduce Whale Entanglement Risk**

The petitioner requests that the California Fish and Game Commission amend the existing recreational crab trap buoy regulation to authorize the use of two main buoys and one red marker buoy, replacing the current requirement of one main buoy and one red marker buoy.

This modification would enhance surface gear visibility and stability, thereby reducing the likelihood of lost traps and associated whale entanglements..

Please note that this petition is being made all the members of both Coastside Fishing Club as well as the Tye Club, which combined have over 2,000 active recreational fishing members.



Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: Under current recreational crab fishing regulations, only one main buoy and one red marker buoy are permitted for each trap. This limitation can result in insufficient buoyancy and decreased visibility under certain sea conditions, leading to submerged or lost gear. Lost crab traps contribute to marine debris and increase the risk of whale entanglement—a concern that directly impacts marine resource conservation and compliance with the Marine Life Protection Act.

The proposed amendment would allow recreational crab fishers to deploy two main buoys placed no more than six (6) feet apart, along with one red marker buoy positioned no more than three (3) feet from the main buoys. This change would:

- Improve surface visibility and buoyancy of trap lines;
- Reduce the risk of gear submergence and loss;
- Enhance trap retrieval efficiency and safety; and
- Contribute to marine wildlife protection by minimizing the potential for entanglement in derelict gear.

For reference, commercial Dungeness crab gear regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §132.2) allow for one main buoy with a biennial tag, up to two “trailer buoys,” and one end marker buoy, with surface line length limits of 24 feet for depths of 210 feet or less and 36 feet for depths greater than 210 feet.

Aligning recreational regulations more closely with these commercial standards would increase consistency, improve environmental safety, and reduce the risk of gear loss that contributes to whale entanglement events.

SECTION II: Optional Information

2. **Date of Petition:** [12/04/2025.]

3. **Category of Proposed Change**

X Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Hunting

Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.]

4. **The proposal is to:** (To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)

X Amend Title 14 Section(s): **Section 29.80, subsection (c)(3)**

Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.]

Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.]

5. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.]

Or X Not applicable.

6. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: [November 2026.]



Supporting documentation: Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: |The proposed configuration mirrors proven commercial practices that improve gear recovery and reduce entanglement risks.

Adoption would not increase the total number of traps or impact catch limits.

This change promotes consistency, safety, and environmental protection in line with state marine resource objectives. |

7. Economic or Fiscal Impacts: Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: |None.

8. Forms: If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

|Click here to enter text. |

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: |12/8/2025 |

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
 - Reject - incomplete
 - Reject - outside scope of FGC authority
- Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: |_____ |

Meeting date for FGC consideration: |_____ |

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
 - Denied - same as petition |_____ |
- Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change