Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery Management

November 12, 2026

Presented to:

Marine Resources Committee

Presented by:

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Marine Region

Post July MRC Meeting

Meeting with fleet and other interested parties (Sept. 16)

- Gear Endorsement & Limited Entry Permit
- Transition to Pop-up Gear
- Director Authority
- Buoy Marking
- Sinking Groundlines



Photo: T. Wakefield

Future Participation

Current Fishery

- Open access
- Fishery concern is bycatch of marine mammals via vertical lines, not target stock

Future Fishery

- Maintain opportunity for new entrants?

Gear Endorsement

- Limit the number of vertical lines used in the fishery
- Nontransferable
- Qualification criteria to determine eligibility

Criteria	Vessel Count (statewide)
At least one landing (2015-2025*)	26
1000 lbs total	20
1000 lbs total + 1 landing in last 5 years	16

* Control date: Feb 13, 2025

Discussion: Gear Endorsement

Areas of agreement

- Prevent expansion in total vertical lines to avoid added entanglement risk
- Some form of qualification for continued use of vertical lines


Photo: CDFW

Discussion: Gear Endorsement (cont.)

Qualification Criteria

- Landing history: last 5 years
- Minimum poundage threshold: TBD

Fishery-wide cap on vertical lines

Discussion: Limited Entry

- Focused on northern fishery
- Mixed opinions
- Prevent new entrants and fishery expansion
- Entanglement risk reduction benefits unclear
- Use of spatially explicit management for vertical lines

Mandatory Transition to Pop-Up Gear?

Location

- Southern Fishery
- Northern Fishery

Timeline

- 1 year
- 5 years
- 10 years
- Other?



Photo: CDFW

Discussion: Pop-Up Gear Transition

Southern Management Area

- Broad support for mandatory pop-up gear by 2030*; some support for transitioning ASAP
- Interest in phased options: 50% vertical line reduction by 2029 or full pop-up by 2030
- Shared support for reducing entanglement risk and preventing vertical line growth

*assumes a 2028 adoption

Discussion: Pop-Up Gear Transition (cont.)

Northern Management Area

- Opposed mandatory transition (at this time)
- In lieu of mandatory transition:
  - Include Director authority as management tool to address inseason entanglement risk
  - Continue monitoring entanglement risk in this area to inform whether mandatory use of pop-up fishing gear should be required

Director Authority

Conditions

- Fishery must be open/action taken during a single season
- Only entanglements in CA waters

Potential Management Actions

- Fleet Advisory
- Gear Reductions
- Pop-up Gear Only
- Fishery Closure

Discussion: Director Authority

- Support for Director authority for rapid response to inseason entanglement events
  - Used in leu of a statewide prohibition on vertical lines
- Importance of implement management actions in area where entanglement occurred
- Some expressed desire to only have director authority apply to vertical lines only (no pop-up)

Discussion: Buoy Marking and Groundlines

Buoy Marking

- Clarification requested on whether two vessel IDs can appear on one buoy

Groundlines

- Mixed opinions on floating vs neutrally buoyant groundlines
- Additional discussion needed on purpose, feasibility, and enforcement practicality

Discussion: Other topics

Line Marking

- Some interest in line-marking, buoy tags, or other methods to better track entanglements

Data Requests

- Request for spatial data on fishery footprint

Future Discussion and Guidance

- Timeline for mandatory transition to pop-up fishing gear in Southern Management Area
- Gear Endorsement Criteria
- Do we provide a pathway for new entrants?
  - If so, what does that pathway look like?
- Groundlines

Next Steps

- Further discussions to refine recommendations
- Targeting March 2027 meeting for final MRC recommendation

Thank You



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