

**CEQA Draft Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration for the  
California Department of Fish and Game's Proposed Regulations to  
Implement the Dungeness Crab Trap Limit Program**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND**

Project Title:	<b>Dungeness Crab Trap Limit Program</b>
Lead agency name and address:	<b>Dept of Fish and Game, Marine Region 5355 Skylane Blvd., Suite B Santa Rosa CA 95403</b>
Contact person and phone number:	<b>Christy Juhasz (707) 576-2887</b>
Project Location:	<b>The state and federal ocean waters off of California out to a depth of approximately 70 fm.</b>
Project sponsor's name and address:	
General plan description:	<b>SB369 (Statutes of 2011, Chapter 335) imposes trap limits on Dungeness crab vessel permitholders (Fish &amp; Game Code 8276.5). This program requires new implementing regulations drafted by the Department of Fish and Game, which must be adopted by March 31, 2013.</b>
Zoning:	<b>N/A</b>
Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation.)	<b>The program contains six elements:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Dungeness crab trap tags, buoy tags, and trap and buoy tag allocations;</b></li> <li><b>2. A waiver process to allow a permitholder to retrieve another's traps,</b></li> <li><b>3. A biennial Dungeness crab trap limit permit,</b></li> <li><b>4. Replacement procedures for lost buoy tags,</b></li> <li><b>5. An appeal process for trap and buoy tag allocations and deadlines, and</b></li> <li><b>6. Fees for the biennial crab trap limit permit, buoy tags and replacement tags, and appeal</b></li> </ol>

	<b>fees for increasing or decreasing trap allotment tiers.</b>
Surrounding land uses and setting; briefly describe the project's surroundings:	<b>These regulations apply to Dungeness crab trap permitted vessels and commercial Dungeness crab traps that will be deployed in state and federal ocean waters off of the state of California.</b>
Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g. permits, financial approval, or participation agreements):	<b>N/A</b>

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project. Please see the checklist beginning on page 3 for additional information.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

**DETERMINATION:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required

**Traps have been used as a primary method to commercially fish for Dungeness crabs since the late 1930's. These rigid circular-framed traps are made from iron rods and wrapped with stainless steel wire mesh. Two entrance tunnels fitted with trigger bars prevent the escapement of legal-sized crab while 2 other openings allow crabs that are less than 4.25 inches to exit the trap. The commercial fishery extends generally in state and federal ocean waters out to a depth of 70 fathoms, outside of bays and estuaries, from the California/Oregon border to Point Conception. This is the area where the program is intended to take effect, though in some years limited Dungeness crab fishing effort may occur in the region south to the Mexican border, but take in this geographic area usually occurs by trawl.**

**A commercial Dungeness crab permit is associated with a vessel and approximately 570 vessel permits were registered in California in 2011. This is a limited entry fishery; while no new permits can be created most permits are transferable. Currently, there is no legal limit to the number of traps a Dungeness crab permitted vessel can fish although the numbers are necessarily limited by vessel size and market demand. A survey of Dungeness crab fishermen's trap use estimated that 171,090 traps were deployed at the height of the fishing season in December 2000 (Deweese et al., 2004) when 63% of the total season's catch occurred (California Department of Fish & Game, California Fisheries Information System).**

**There have been no recent estimates for the current number of traps deployed in the commercial fishery and fishermen are not required to report the number of traps they use.**

**The ultimate goal of the program is to limit the total number of Dungeness crab traps that can be deployed in the commercial fishery in California. The statute lays the groundwork for the program by imposing seven tiers of trap allotments between 500 to 175 traps. Permitholders will be assigned to one of these tiers based on California landings made between the 2003-04 season and the 2007-08 season. The first 55 with the highest landing will be assigned 500 traps, while the next 55 will be assigned 450 traps, and so on in 50 trap increments until the 300 trap allotment. Finally the remaining permitholders with more than 5,000 pounds landed will be assigned 250 traps while those that made less than 5,000 pounds will be assigned the lowest tier of 175 traps. However, the number of permitholders in these tiers will not be finalized until early 2013.**

**Since the actual number of traps currently deployed is unknown, an estimate of the maximum number of traps determined by this tier system can be calculated and considered to be the environmental baseline for this project. To calculate a baseline using the number of permits renewed in 2011, 570, the top 275 permits would contribute a total of 110,000 traps while the remaining 295 permits would contribute between 73,750, if these permits were in the 250 trap tier, and 51,625 traps, if they were all in the 175 trap tier. The total number of traps would then be no more than 183,750 traps.**

**However, the actual number deployed by permitholders will be a somewhat less, but unknown number. Not all permitholders fish for Dungeness crab. For the past ten years on average 31% of these permitholders has not landed crab. For 2011, this would account for 177 permits, if these fall in the lowest tier of trap allotments that would account at the very least a total of 30,975 traps potentially not fished. If any permitholder fails to purchase all the tags in their tier, their Dungeness crab vessel permit becomes void, thus removing permitholders from the fishery and again reducing the total potential traps that could be fished. These factors all contribute to lowering the total number of traps from what is considered the baseline.**

**The characteristics of current commercial crab trap fishing are not expected to change following the implementation of these rules. Any subsequent effects on fishing patterns, should they occur, would be a solely economic result of allocating Dungeness crab permitholders into trap tiers. However, such a result is only speculative.**

**There are not expected to be any adverse effects created by the addition of the small waterproof trap tags and tier-identifying buoy tags, which are required by statute to be placed on every Dungeness crab trap buoy that is**

fished in California. The use of these tags is described in Fish and Game Code Section 8276.5(a)(3)(D). The trap tag, which is attached directly to the trap is already in common use by crab fishermen.

Any increased effort and costs for enforcement as a result of the program will be covered by the fees generated by the biennial trap permit and tier-identifying buoy tags, as addressed in Fish and Game Code Section 8276.5(e).

The Department has drafted rules that govern the use of tier-identifying buoy tags on traps as well as the procedures for how they can be purchased and replaced if lost, and the purchase of the new biennial trap permit, created by the statute. These regulations address proper accounting of the crab traps to ensure that no permit holder operates more traps than their allocation allows.

The regulations also detail the process to file for a waiver to request that another permit holder retrieve your traps and instances for retrieving derelict traps. These rules will facilitate the removal of lost or derelict traps that pose an environmental hazard by continuing to trap organisms in a process known as 'ghost' fishing and will increase public safety since marine vessels can become entangled by trap lines.

The rules also distinguish between commercial Dungeness crab traps from those used for rock crab and recreational fishing, with the proper use of Department-issued tier-identifying buoy tags. The regulations also allow those Dungeness crab permit holders who possess a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel license to only recreationally fish for crab during the commercial season, and will prevent Dungeness crab permit holders who also possess a rock crab permit from fishing for rock crab 30 days before the Dungeness crab season opens, in order to limit pre-season prospecting.

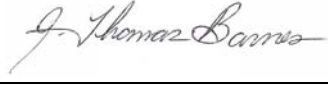
In addition, the production of tags is expected to add to greenhouse gas emissions insignificantly and be more than offset by the eventual reduction in fishing effort caused by the imposition of these trap limits, especially from larger vessels that currently deploy 1,000 traps to half this number and therefore will burn less fuel to operate this reduced number of traps. The eventual reduction of traps will lower the likelihood of marine mammal entanglement and ghost fishing as well. All of these measures aid in the implementation of the Dungeness crab trap limit program described in statute in an effort to sustain the Dungeness crab resource, resulting in a positive net effect on the ocean ecosystem and the nearshore environment.

**Reference:**

**Deweese CM, Sortais K, Krachey MJ, Hackett SC, Hankin DG. Racing for crabs...Costs and management options evaluated in Dungeness crab fishery. California Aquaculture. 2004. 58(4).**

**Online article can be found here:**

**<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/repositoryfiles/ca5804p186-69152.pdf>**

<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> <b>8/1/2012</b>
<b>Printed Name: Tom Barnes</b>	<b>For: California Department of Fish &amp; Game</b>

## CEQA Environmental Checklist

Dist.-Co.-Rte.

P.M/P.M.

E.A.

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the projects indicate no impacts. A NO IMPACT answer in the last column reflects this determination. Where there is a need for clarifying discussion, the discussion is included either following the applicable section of the checklist or is within the body of the environmental document itself. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the following checklist are related to CEQA, not NEPA, impacts. The questions in this form are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS:</b> Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of small waterproof tags (several square inches in size) on Dungeness crab traps and trap buoys and their use is not anticipated to have an adverse effect on the aesthetics of scenic vistas, scenic highways, day or nighttime views, nor will it degrade visual character or quality of sites. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished, except for the use of tags on each trap and the attached buoy, which is required by legislative statute but further clarified in the proposed regulations. In addition, Dungeness crab permit holders will now be required to be in possession of a waiver that is granted by the Department in order to retrieve another permit holder's tagged traps during the Dungeness crab season. This regulation is necessary to prevent a permit holder from fishing more than the number of traps in their trap tier while encouraging the retrieval of lost gear. This could potentially delay the retrieval of traps in the event that a permit holder is unable to retrieve their own traps due to circumstances beyond their control. However, there is still a provision for granting verbal approval for this type of trap recovery in emergency situations. Furthermore, since traps will be more highly regulated with improved identification of trap ownership, it is anticipated that these proposed rules will eventually lead to adoption of programs**

**designed to achieve a reduction of abandoned and lost crab gear on the ocean bottom and beaches.**

**II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:** In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps used for commercial fishing and their use would have no adverse effects on land-based agricultural farm or forest lands. Although aquaculture is a kind of agriculture, marine aquaculture is conducted pursuant to state water bottom leases that would preclude crab fishing in those areas.**

**III. AIR QUALITY:** Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps used for commercial fishing. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished and any air quality effects created by marine vessels should either not change substantially or be reduced since Dungeness crab vessels will either operate the same or less then the number of traps they currently operate under these regulations.**

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would have no adverse effects on land-based biological resources, riparian habitat, or federally protected wetlands nor would it conflict with any policies or ordinances or any provisions of conservation plans. The use of tags on crab traps does not alter the way in which crab traps are currently fished and would not change the current effects of Dungeness crab commercial fishing on migratory wildlife or fish species such as ocean salmon. The new overall trap limit should prevent any future expansion of Dungeness crab fishery effort and may prevent any increase in marine mammal entanglements that might have resulted from that effort increase.**

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES:** Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps used for commercial fishing and their use would have no adverse effects on land-based historical, archeological, or paleontological resources or**

**geologic features and will not disturb any land-based human remains. Any existing resources on Dungeness crab fishing grounds would not be impacted any differently since these regulations would not alter the way in which crab traps are currently fished.**

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS:** Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps used for commercial fishing and their use would have no adverse land-based geological effects. Geologic effects that occur on Dungeness crab fishing grounds would not be impacted any differently since these regulations would not alter the way in which crab traps are currently fished.**

**VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:** Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	An assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is included in the body of environmental document. While Caltrans has
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b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

included this good faith effort in order to provide the public and decision-makers as much information as possible about the project, it is Caltrans determination that in the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to GHG emissions and CEQA significance, it is too speculative to make a significance determination regarding the project's direct and indirect impact with respect to climate change. Caltrans does remain firmly committed to implementing measures to help reduce the potential effects of the project. These measures are outlined in the body of the environmental document.

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and would not generate greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with any plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished and greenhouse gas emissions created by marine vessels should not change substantially under these regulations from how they currently operate. The production of tags is expected to add to greenhouse gas emissions insignificantly and be more than offset by the eventual reduction in fishing effort caused by the imposition of these trap limits, especially from larger vessels fishing fewer traps and therefore burning less fuel to operate the traps.**

**VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:** Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps used for commercial fishing and their use would not create a significant hazard to the environment or public nor will it emit hazardous emissions nor will it be a land-based hazard nor impair any emergency plan. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished and hazardous emissions created by marine vessels should not change substantially under these regulations from how they currently operate. The occasional loss of small buoy tags in ocean waters is expected to pose an insignificant hazard to the environment, however proper procedures for purchasing tags and applying them to traps are described in the regulations, and the monetary disincentive to losing tags should mitigate losses.**

**IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:** Would the project:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?
- b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?
- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?
- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?
- e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?
- f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps used for commercial fishing and their use would not adversely affect water quality standards, nor effect drainage patterns, nor create runoff, nor degrade water quality, nor create a flood hazard, nor inundate by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. These regulations should not adversely affect any freshwater system. The project will not alter the way in which crab traps are fished. Dungeness crab traps currently do not pose an inundation hazard, and this would remain true under the proposed project.**

**X. LAND USE AND PLANNING:** Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would have no adverse effect on land use plans nor conflict with any land-based habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans.**

**XI. MINERAL RESOURCES:** Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not result in the loss of availability of land-based mineral resources or a locally-important mineral resource recovery site.**

**XII. NOISE:** Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Potentially Significant Impact      Less Than Significant with Mitigation      Less Than Significant Impact      No Impact

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not result in any substantial permanent increase or temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels or generation of noise levels in excess of standards or excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished and any noise created by marine vessels should not change substantially under these regulations from how they currently operate. These regulations would also not substantially affect noise levels within the vicinity of any airport or private airstrip.**

**XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING:** Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not impact population growth or displacement of existing housing or people.**

**XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES:**

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fire protection?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would have no adverse physical impacts on government facilities.**

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XV. RECREATION:**

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|



b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not result in the increase use of neighborhood or regional parks.**

**XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC:** Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not conflict with road traffic or public transportation or result in a change in air traffic patterns nor would it result in inadequate emergency access. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished and any traffic created by commercial fishers should not change substantially under these regulations.**

**XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:** Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not result in excessive wastewater treatment requirements, or in the construction of water, wastewater or storm drainage facilities, nor will it require water supplies nor will it generate solid waste.**

**XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The proposed project regulates the use of tags on Dungeness crab traps and their use would not potentially degrade the quality of the environment nor reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species. The project will not cause any adverse environmental effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. There will be no change in the way crab traps are currently fished and effects on fish, wildlife and human beings should not change substantially under these regulations from how they currently operate.**