

# California Dungeness Crab Task Force Meeting

*October 16-17, 2019*

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DCTF Task Force

*supported by the DCTF Admin Team:*

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# 5. Marine Life Entanglement Updates - Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group Updates



# CA Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group)

- Thriving West Coast whales/sea turtle populations and a thriving and profitable Dungeness crab fishery
- Composition
- Priorities
  - Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP)
  - Improved data collection
  - Gear innovations

# Working Group - Recent Activities

- September, 4-5 2019 Meeting
  - Reviewed settlement terms and definitions
  - Introduced to CDFW draft RAMP rulemaking
  - Discussed CDFW Interim Management plans for the 2019-2020 season
  - Drafted recommendations to inform Interim Management implementation and ongoing RAMP rulemaking development
  - Discussed potential management measure options

# Working Group - Recent Activities

October 15, 2019 - Preseason Risk Assessment

- **Recommendation to CDFW Director:** Open 2019-20 season on November 15 (CMA) and December 1 (NMA) barring any new information that CDFW determines may change risk levels

Factor	Assessment
Entanglements	Low
Marine Life Concentrations	Moderate & trending low
Ocean and Forage	Moderate/low & trending low
Fishing Dynamics	Low

# 2019-20 Preseason Risk Assessment

- No mandatory management measures recommended
- Voluntary actions will be recommended
  - Best practices
    - Surface gear
  - Slackline reduction
  - Neutral buoyancy line
- Risk assessment schedule
- Implementation of management measures

# Working Group - Project Teams

- **Gear Innovations**

- Gear Demonstration Day September 6
- Pursuing regulatory and funding options to support gear innovation testing

- **Survey**

- Developing aerial survey coordination
- Considering vessel surveys

- **Communications**

- 2019-20 Best Practices Guide

- **Electronic Reporting**

- Solar logger pilot

# Whales Working Group

- Looking ahead
  - Memo to the DCTF
  - Continue to hold public meetings throughout the season
    - Risk assessments
    - Management measure implementation



# Whales - Recommendations

Vertical lines - way to keep track?

- Maximum potential traps
- How determine when fisherman stops fishing?
  - OR model?
- eTix, no longer landing crab