

RAMP Guiding Principles To Inform an Evaluation Team's Consideration of Management Options California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group

The Working Group supports thriving whale populations along the West Coast, and a thriving and profitable Dungeness crab fishery. Our charge is to:

- Provide guidance and recommendations to the California Dungeness crab fishing industry, including the DCTF, to avoid/minimize entanglements and identify measures or experiments that can be developed or implemented by the fishing community to address the entanglement issue;
- Collaboratively inform and guide the state of California (CDFW, OPC, Fish and Game Commission, and the Legislature) in addressing key information gaps and/or measures to reduce the risks of entanglements in Dungeness crab fishing gear; and
- Guide whale entanglement reduction efforts by establishing priorities for the Working Group, and help inform other entities seeking to address the issue of whale entanglements in California.

The following draft principles/characteristics have been developed to help guide the Working Group (which will act as the Evaluation Team during the 2017-18 RAMP pilot) under circumstances where the risk assessment framework (RAF) indicates an elevated risk for entanglements. These guiding principles will be used when the Working Group reviews the management measures toolbox (MMT) and considers possible management measures. These guiding principles will be evaluated during the 2017-18 RAMP pilot, and may be further updated based on lessons learned by the Working Group and input from the fleet and others.

Management Options/Measures

- The Working Group is working to identify, recommend, and evaluate management measures that can effectively reduce whale entanglements in CA Dungeness crab fishing gear.
- Management measures will be fact-based, science driven, and proportional to the elevated risk conditions. Management measure will be updated as new information becomes available.
- Management measures will be scalable and any application should be narrowly focused in geographic area and time frame. Management measures will be consistently applied and will be enforceable.
- Management measures will be adaptable and additional management measures may be included as identified by the Evaluation Team and reviewed and confirmed by the Core Team.
- Management measures will aim to maintain fishermen's safety, minimize negative economic impacts, and avoid disproportionate impacts on a subset of the fleet. Where possible, mitigation options will be considered, including identifying alternative harvesting opportunities for impacted fishermen.
- Management measures will be evaluated and measured across a number of stages, including effectiveness of communication out to the fleet; level of understanding of the communication; and level of response to management measure.
- Once a management measure has been identified, a clear process for evaluating its implementation and identifying when/how fishermen are able to re-establish regular fishing practices in as short a timeframe as possible will be developed.
- Annual evaluation of the management options list will be conducted so the suite of options can be refined based on experiences and lessons learned. As appropriate, lessons learned will be shared with other CA fixed-gear fisheries for review and consideration.

For more information about the Working Group's efforts and RAMP, including opportunities to provide feedback and share your expertise, visit <http://www.opc.ca.gov/whale-entanglement-working-group/> or <http://www.opc.ca.gov/risk-assessment-and-mitigation-program-ramp/>.