

This document was developed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and will support the discussion during the October 16-18, 2017 California Dungeness Crab Task Force Meeting.

## PROPOSED California Department of Fish and Wildlife Dungeness Crab Gear Retrieval Program:

**The Dungeness Crab Gear Retrieval Program mandated by SB1287 outlines that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will:** **1)** issue lost /abandoned gear retrieval permits to fishermen, **2)** collect fees to fund the program; and **3)** not renew Dungeness crab vessel permits (DCVPs) unless retrieval fees are paid.

### Department Responsibilities:

- Issue gear retrieval permits to fishermen (and associations?)
- Notify permit holder owners about retrieved traps
- Collect payment from fishermen of fees for their recovered traps
- Maintain communication between the retrieving and trap-owner parties
- Disbursing funds for gear retrieved

### Permitted Gear Retriever Responsibilities:

- Store trap(s) retrieved and if not claimed by the owner within a defined time period, will be responsible for trap(s)
- Provide CDFW with proper documentation (e.g. logbook, invoice) for all traps retrieved under permit
- Return traps to owners once a receipt of payment has been issued

### Conditions

- Gear Retrieval period will begin 2 weeks after the close of season (grace period) and last 4-6 weeks.
- Permitted trap retrievers will only be paid for traps that are identifiable to owner
- There will be a drop-dead date for late trap fee that would end up with a non-renewal permit w/no grace period. Permits then would not be renewed after April 1 the following year.
- Participation in program is voluntary and DCVP vessels will still be able to retrieve traps independently.