

California Crab Gear Retrieval Proposal for DCTF Executive Committee Consideration

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There seems to be a consensus in the DCTF and up and down the coast that we need a Gear Retrieval Program (GRP) to clean up our mess. There may be an opportunity to move ahead with this project if we can identify an acceptable program. We have experimented with a grant funded, fisherman run program designed by fishermen in collaboration with Jennifer Renzullo, CA Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Program. At the request of some Humboldt fishermen, she has outlined a proposal for this program with a projected cost analysis. Washington and Oregon currently have a functioning GRP in place based on fishermen voluntarily salvaging gear in exchange for acquiring ownership of that gear. In the California fisherman run program, property rights to lost gear are retained. In the Oregon/Washington program, property rights to lost gear are relinquished. An outline of a proposed California program, as well as a comparison to the Oregon and Washington programs are as follows:

California Proposal: Details

- Private property rights would be retained
 - Pots are in possession of GRP under authority of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Gear retrieval program begins day after close of season (or 2 weeks later?)
- No observer when gear retrieved
- Pay fishermen to pay \$65/trap recovered (or sell gear for \$70/trap?)
 - Everyone must pay whether they pick up their retrieved gear or not. Bills not paid result in gear being considered abandoned
- 1 person at each port needs to inventory and sell gear back to owners
- Gear not picked up by (Nov. 1st?) will be sold or scrapped
- Overhead for program will be paid for by added cost for replacement tags and retrieval fees

California Proposal: Projected Cost Estimate

- 10 ports = 1 person/port/season to inventory, sell gear, prepare bills, write receipts, track fishermen \$ earned - \$4,000 X 10 ports = \$40,000/season
- 1 Program Administrator, keep Gear Recovery Committee informed, manage a port, and give CDFW unpaid bills by end of year; handles any unforeseen issues ~\$15,000
- Misc: Storage (\$0.30/ft/month) ~\$270/month, forklifts (\$30/half-hour), hoists (?) ~\$15,000
- *Total Cost Projection = \$70,000*

Oregon/Washington Programs

- Property rights to gear in ocean surrendered two weeks after close of season
- Boat intending to pick up pots obtains permit from Fish and Wildlife (FW), notifies FW on day of salvage trip. FW meets boat at dock at end of day. Traps retrieved are banded by FW and registered as property of retriever.

Oregon/Washington Programs: Projected Cost Estimate

- FW bears cost of meeting boats at dock and banding retrieved pots, \$0 cost to fishermen

California versus Oregon/Washington Cost Comparison

- California fisherman run program projected annual cost **\$70,000**, less proceeds from reclaimed gear
- Use of the OR/WA program projected cost **\$0** (This amount is dependent on the ability of the CDFW to provide the same support as Oregon and Washington FW)

Achievement of a GRP consensus can be delivered to Senator Mike McGuire's office. McGuire's aide, Tom Weseloh, is keeping his eye open for a bill to attach a crab GRP to.