



Dungeness Crab Task Force: Whale Project Updates

October 25-26, 2022

Whale Project Updates

- Season planning / RAMP implementation
- Predetermined season opening dates
- RAMP 2.0 overview
- Conservation Plan timeline
- Entanglement summary and recent events

2022-23 Season Planning /RAMP

- CDFW and numerous collaborators collecting data
- Risk Assessments = bi-weekly basis
- Data publicly available
- Working Group recommendations (5 scheduled between now and January)
- Need for manage action – decision by CDFW Director
- Whale Safe Fisheries page/listserv updates

2022-23 Predetermined season opening dates

Rationale:

- Predictability for the fleet
- Greater certainty to processors, markets and public
- Supports coordination with collaborators and data contributors
- Supports planning and implementation by CDFW
- Aligns with RAMP implementation to date
- Pilot for inclusion in RAMP 2.0
- Settlement obligations

RAMP: Season Opening – Predetermined dates

The Director will conduct Risk Assessments in advance of the opening of the Fishing Season as follows:

- On or before November 1, the Director will evaluate risk for a November 15 Fishing Season opener.
- If the November 15 Fishing Season opener is delayed, the season will open on December 1 unless the subsequent risk assessment leads to additional season delay.
- If a December 1 Fishing Season opener is delayed, the season will open on December 16 unless the subsequent risk assessment leads to additional season delay.
- If a December 16 Fishing Season opener is delayed, the season will open on December 31 unless the subsequent risk assessment leads to additional season delay.

RAMP 2.0

- Timeline for notice = February 2023
- Regulations effective = November 2023
- Updates include:
 - Definitions
 - Management actions
 - Electronic monitoring
 - Buoy marking
 - Alternative gear

Conservation Plan

- Reorganizing and updating
- Expected submission in early 2023
- Permit term = 21 years
- Covers humpback whales, blue whales and Pacific leatherback sea turtles
- Include Best Available Science
- Submission begins 2-year review process
- Public input opportunities

Entanglements – RAMP Annual Accounting

Report Date	Species	Report Location	Gear Type	Score Assigned
April 3, 2021	Humpback whale	Ventura, CA	Unknown	0.38
June 9, 2021	Humpback whale	Los Cabos, MX	CA Commercial Dcrab	0.75
July 13, 2021	Humpback whale	San Diego, CA	Unknown	0.38
August 28, 2021	Humpback whale	Santa Barbara, CA	Unknown	0.38
				2021 total = 1.89
January 27, 2022	Humpback whale	Monterey Bay, CA	Unknown gear	0.38
March 11, 2022	Humpback whale	Moss Beach, CA	CA Commercial Dcrab	0.75
March 19, 2022	Humpback whale	Monterey Bay, CA	CA Commercial Dcrab	0.75
March 21, 2022	Humpback whale	Santa Cruz, CA	Unknown gear	0.38
March 28, 2022	Humpback whale	Monterey Bay, CA	CA Commercial Dcrab	0.75
May 20, 2022	Humpback whale	Monterey Bay, CA	Unknown gear	0.38
July 24, 2022	Humpback whale	Monterey Bay, CA	Unknown gear	0.38
August 30, 2022	Humpback whale	Monterey Bay, CA	Unknown gear	0.38
				2022 total = 4.15
<i>*October 8, 2022</i>	<i>Humpback whale</i>	<i>Dana Point, CA</i>	<i>under review</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>*October 10, 2022</i>	<i>Humpback whale</i>	<i>Moss Landing, CA</i>	<i>under review</i>	<i>X</i>

May 20

- Humpback entanglement reported Monterey
- Fishery: unidentified
- Entanglement description: One orange and one white/yellow buoy trailing approx 30 feet behind animal. Likely fluke entanglement.
- Outcome: not resighted, presumed still entangled



July 3

- Humpback entanglement reported off Trinidad
- Fishery: gillnet
- Entanglement description: Whale entangled with gillnet around peduncle and trailing a large red polyball from RABEN (entanglement response from Mexico)
- Outcome: no gear removed, not Resighted, presumed still entangled



July 24

- Humpback entanglement reported Monterey
- Fishery: Unidentified
- Entanglement description: 2 bullet buoys that are purple on the bottom half and red on the top half. The trailer buoy also has small white oval shaped buoy at the end of apprx. 3 ft of line
- Outcome: Whale self-released, documented by response team



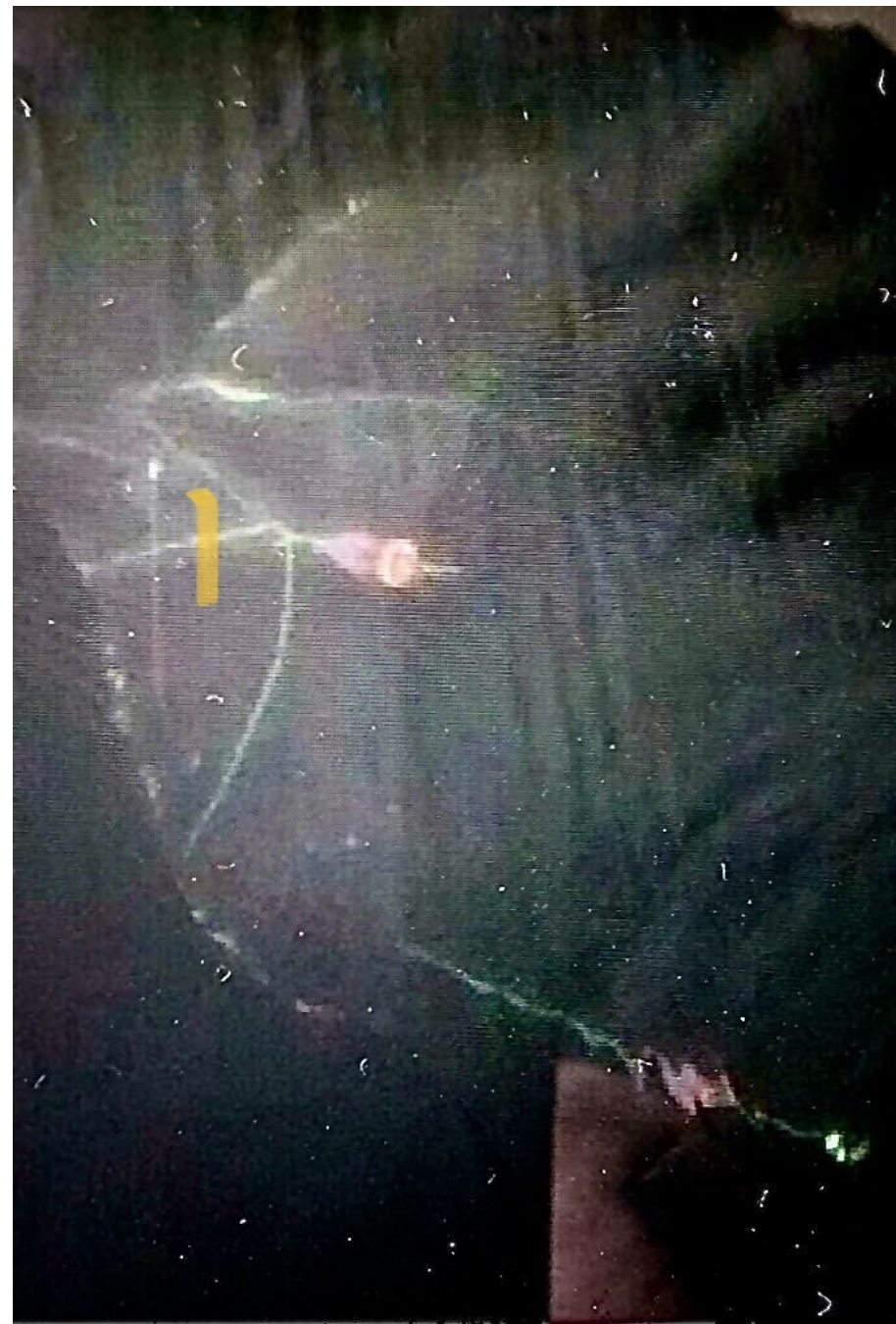
July 24 (overhead view)



NMFS Permit #: 18786-05

July 24 – Close up

No visible buoy markings and no tags seen on the two buoys

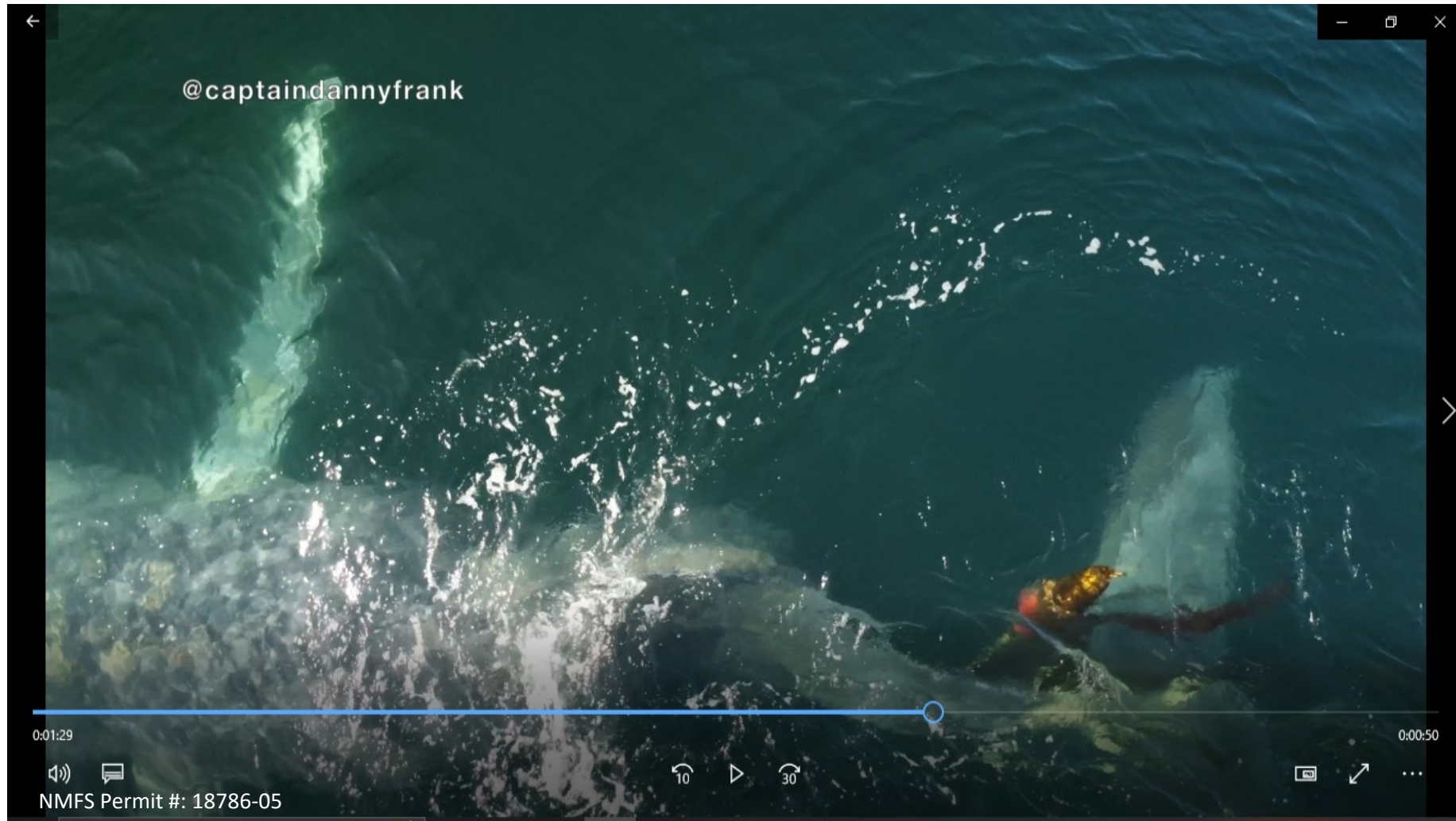


August 30

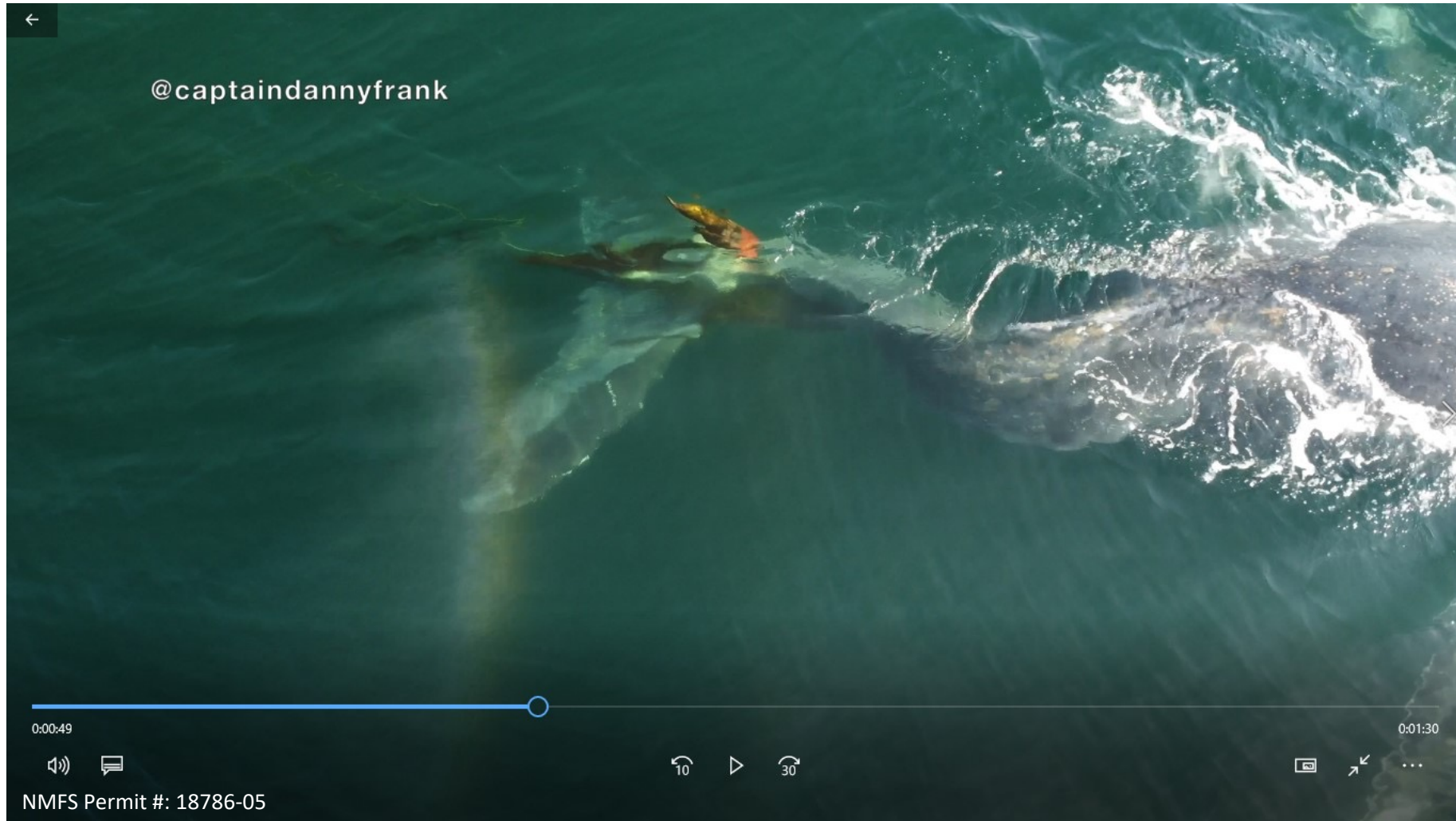
- Humpback entanglement reported off Monterey
- Fishery: unidentified
- Entanglement description: severely injured whale, entangled around the peduncle or flukes, trailing an orange buoy only a few feet from the tail.
- Outcome: Not Resighted, presumed still entangled



August 30 – View 1



August 30 – View 2



September 9

- Humpback entanglement reported off Monterey
- Fishery: Gillnet (monofilament)
- Entanglement description: Gillnet hanging off head/mouth
- Outcome: Not Resighted, presumed still entangled



September 10

- Humpback entanglement off Monterey
- Fishery: OR commercial Dungeness crab
- Entanglement description: Whale trailing 3 buoys, one with a tag, from the flukes, 100ft+ of tangled line with line under tension going to a trap
- Entanglement responders added a telemetry buoy, currently tracking whale moving south towards Santa Barbara; still entangled



September 25

- Humpback entanglement reported off Carlsbad
- Fishery: OR commercial Dungeness crab
- Entanglement description: Line wrapped around the body in front of the dorsal fin, 5 buoys from 2 sets of gear (from the same owner)
- Outcome: Fully disentangled by NMFS/Sea World, gear recovered and documented



September 25 – More images

