

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan (RAMP) Regulations Overview and Operation



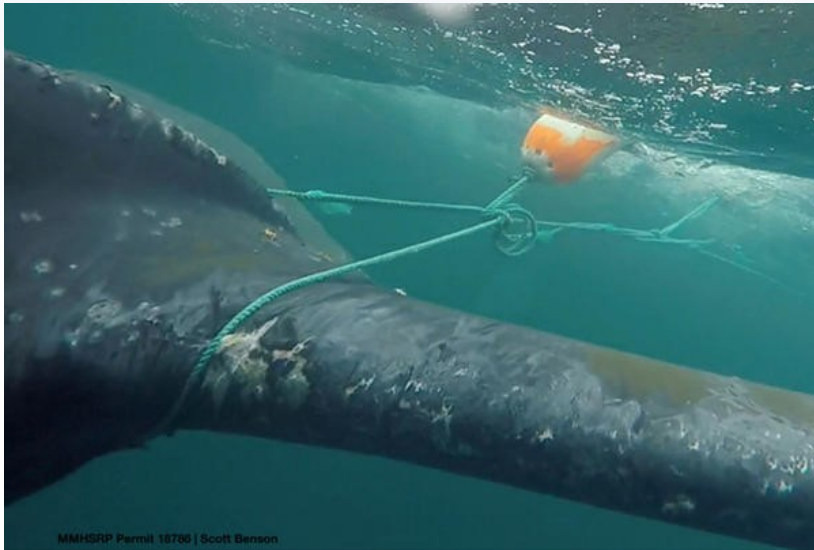
October 21, 2020

Presented to:

The Dungeness Crab Task Force

Presented by:

**CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region**





Outline

- RAMP background
- RAMP regulation overview
- RAMP operation and Working Group role
- Q & A



RAMP: Background

- SB 1309 (2018, McGuire) added Section 8276.1 to the Fish and Game Code
- Requires the Department, in consultation with the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group), to adopt RAMP regulations
- Statute requires adoption by November 1, 2020
- RAMP regulations are the foundation of the Conservation Plan (CP)



RAMP: Background (cont.)

- Draft CP was submitted to NMFS – May 2020
- CDFW is currently revising the draft CP
- CP will support Incidental Take Permit request (take levels)
- RAMP will continue to be adaptive and revised
- RAMP –alignment with CA goal of minimizing entanglements



RAMP: Regulation Overview

- Effective November 1, 2020
- CDFW will continuously monitor available data related to Marine Life Concentrations and Entanglements
- Risk assessments conducted at least monthly
November 1 – June 30 *
- Available data streams will be compiled and shared monthly with Working Group (WG) and the public

**Future risk assessments may also include recreational crab fishery*



RAMP: Regulation Overview (cont.)

- WG reviews scope of risk based on RAMP trigger(s) and CDFW initial recommendation
- WG will provide Management Recommendation(s) to the Director
- Director will use a declarations to communicate management change
- Risk Assessments will be conducted until the season closes or as described in the Director's declaration



RAMP: Risk Assessment Cycle



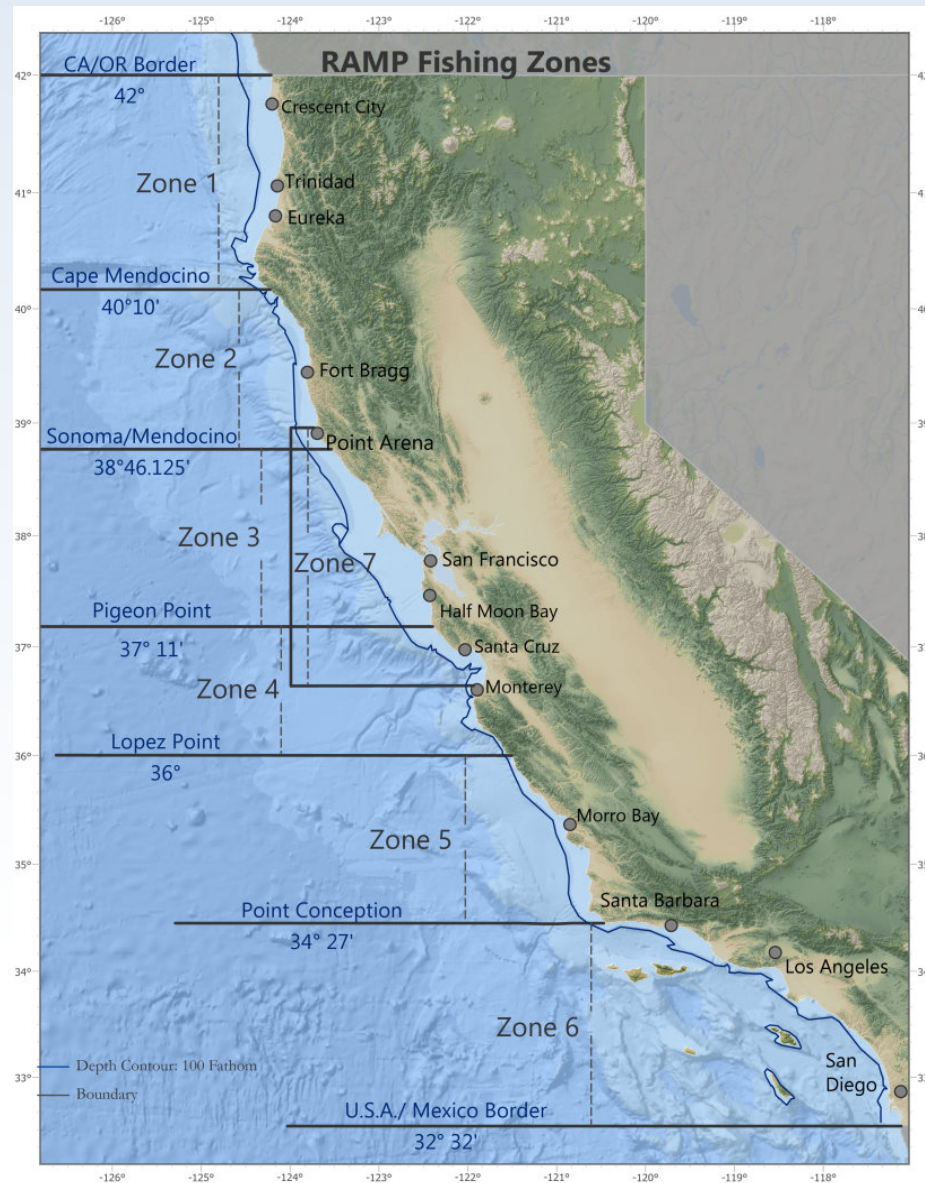


RAMP: Regulation Outline Section 132.8

- (a) Definitions (includes Fishing Zones)
- (b) Risk Assessment Schedule
- (c) Triggers for Management Action
- (d) Management Considerations
- (e) Management Actions
- (f) Notification Process
- (g) Mandatory Reporting
- (h) Alternative Gear Authorization



RAMP: Fishing Zones (a)





RAMP: Fishing Zones (cont.)

The RAMP regulation divides the California coast into seven Fishing Zones. Fishing Zone means any of the following areas that extend from zero to 200 nautical miles offshore (U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone).

Zone 1: From the California/Oregon border (42° N. latitude) to Cape Mendocino (40° 10' N. latitude).

Zone 2: From Cape Mendocino to the Sonoma/Mendocino county line (38° 46.125' N. latitude).

Zone 3: From Sonoma/Mendocino county line to Pigeon Point (37° 11' N. latitude).

Zone 4: From Pigeon Point to Lopez Point (36° N. latitude).

Zone 5: From Lopez Point to Point Conception (34° 27' N. latitude).

Zone 6: From Point Conception to the U.S./Mexico Border.

Zone 7: "Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle Foraging Area" from Point Arena (38° 57.5' N. latitude) to Point Pinos (36° 38.314' N. latitude).



RAMP: Risk Assessment Schedule (b)

- Director shall evaluate entanglement risk at least monthly – November 1 and June 30 until season closes
- Provide 48-hour notice to WG
- Consider most recently available data and WG management action recommendation
- Director will continue to evaluate risk while operating under Management Action (under RAMP)



RAMP: Management Triggers (c)

- Confirmed entanglements shall be evaluated during a single fishing season and averaged over a three-year period beginning with the 2021 calendar year
- Marine life concentrations based on data from surveys and telemetry monitoring of actionable species designed, conducted, or approved by NOAA or CDFW



RAMP: Available Data

- NOAA Entanglement Reports
- Cascadia Research Whale Surveys
- CDFW marine landings data and relevant analysis
- CDFW bi-weekly Fishing Activity Reports
- NOAA/UCSC Oceanographic and forage data
- Monterey Bay Whale Watch
- Point Blue Conservation Science Observations
- CDFW Aerial Surveys
- NOAA Aerial Surveys
- USCG Aerial Surveys
- NOAA Leatherback sea turtle tagging and telemetry data
- Solar Logger Pilot Project data

Data to inform RAMP Management Triggers (c) and Management Considerations (d)



RAMP: Management Considerations (d)

- Management Considerations 132.8 (d) guide a recommended Management Action by providing context and rationale for the recommended risk minimization approach.
- Management Considerations discussed by the Working Group will be important to forming a management recommendation to be provided to the CDFW Director.



RAMP: Management Considerations (cont. 1)

Department shall consider the following information to assess appropriate management action once risk is determined:

- Working Group recommendation
- NOAA information
- Effectiveness of management measures (minimize risk)
- Consideration of economic impacts to Fleet
- Data availability



RAMP: Management Considerations (cont. 2)

- Historic marine life migration
- Fishing season dynamics
- Forage – distribution and abundance
- Ocean conditions
- Current impact score calculation
- Marine life concentration distribution



RAMP: Management Action (e)

- The CDFW Director will choose a Management Action based on the best available science that will help minimize entanglement risk.

Note: Recommended Management Action(s) made by the Director and WG are limited by the RAMP regulations.



RAMP: Management Actions (cont.)

The Director may implement the following:

- Fleet Advisory
- Depth Constraint
- Vertical Line/Gear Reduction
- Fishery Closure
 - Zone
 - Statewide
- Alternative Gear

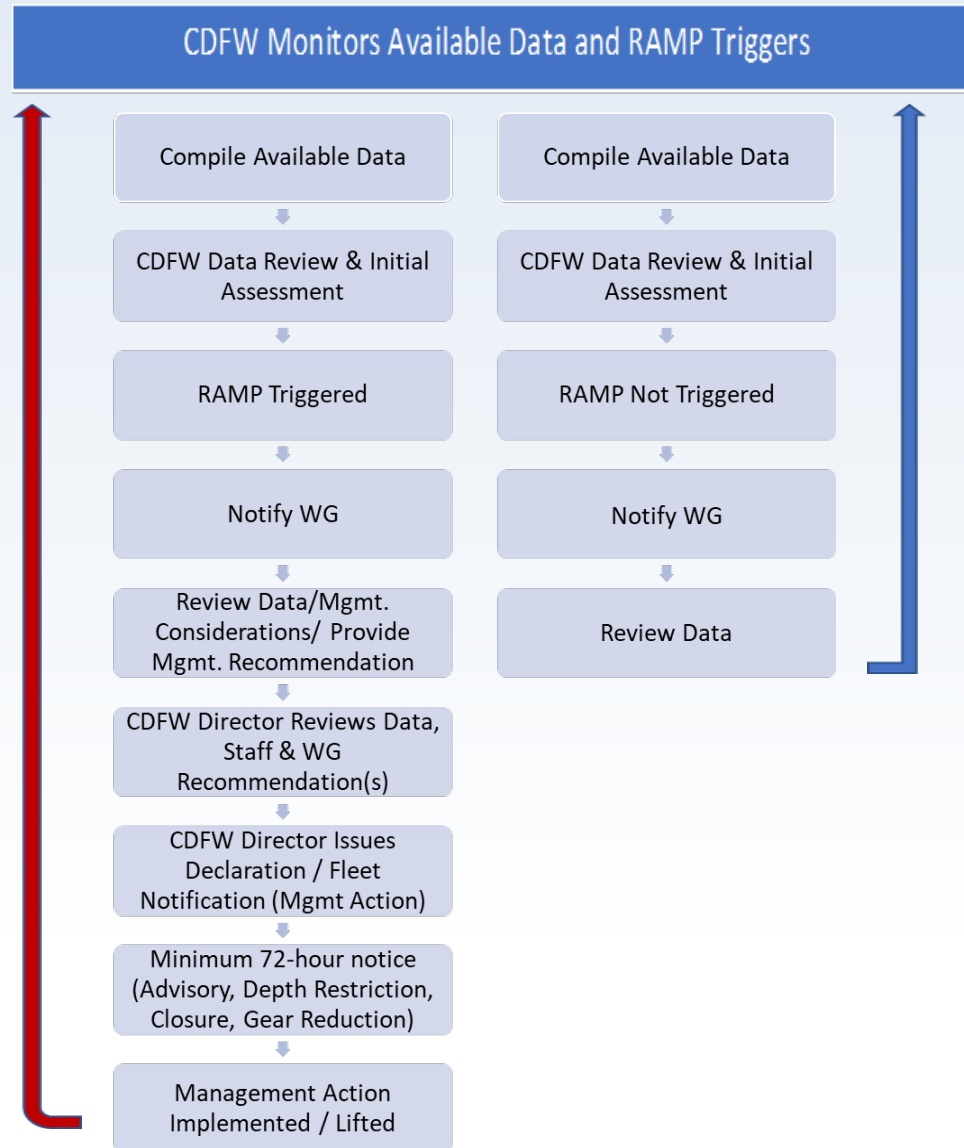


RAMP: Notification Process (f)

- Transmitted via Director's declaration
- Minimum 72-hour notice to fleet
 - Ensure fair and orderly operations
- Communicated
 - Email list-serve
 - Whales Webpage
 - VHF Channel 16



RAMP: Risk Assessment Operation





RAMP: Mandatory Reporting (g)

- Fishing Activity Reporting Requirement (Bimonthly)
 - Permit, Fishing Zone, Depth, # Traps
- Electronic Monitoring
 - Required when operating under specific mgmt. action:
 - Depth constraint
 - Alternative gear
 - Required on all vessels by 2023-24 season



RAMP: Alternative Gear Authorization (h)

Department shall authorize alternative gear types for use to take Dungeness crab for commercial purposes using the following criteria:

- Detectability
- Retrievability
- Identification
- Risk reduction benefit
- Enforceability



RAMP: Alternative Gear Authorization (cont.)

Authorization Process:

- Applicant information
- Description of gear
- Research trials
- Recovery plan
- Electronic monitoring
- Annual reporting



RAMP: Alternative Gear Deauthorization (h)

- CDFW may decline authorization
 - Incomplete application, does not meet criteria, cost prohibitive, does not comply with other regulations, proprietary
- CDFW may also deauthorize
 - No longer meets criteria

More information:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries

Regulations:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations/RAMP>



Thank You

