

**Draft Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) Assumptions  
2018-19 CA Dungeness Crab Fishing Season  
California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group**

The 2018-19 RAMP will be conducted under the following working assumptions:

**CA Dungeness Crab Fishery:** the pilot will include both commercial and recreational fishing.

**State-managed Fisheries:** will be the focus of the RAMP. There is continued expressed interest to work with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in the near future.

**Role of the Risk Assessment Framework (RAF):** the RAF, which considers the four priority factors that are believed to elevate entanglement risk—forage/ocean conditions, whale concentrations, fishing dynamics, and entanglements—is designed to indicate a need for more focused attention on the issue of whale entanglements in a fishery/area by an Evaluation Team. No management measures are prescribed by the RAF.

**Management Recommendations:** any recommendation(s) developed by an Evaluation Team (a subgroup of the Working Group) will be submitted to the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for consideration. Management recommendations may be voluntary or mandatory, informed by the Management Measures Toolbox (MMT) [here](#). The Director will have interim authority to implement mandatory management measures as of January 1, 2019, as defined in Senate Bill 1309 (more information [here](#)).

**Spatial and Seasonal Scale:** data will be considered at the statewide level at the start of the fishing season, with certain factors focusing on regional (north/south) and/or port level information as the fishing season progresses and as information is available. The RAMP will consider factors across a seasonal calendar/scale.

**Marine Life:** focus on humpback and blue whales to date. Relevant information about other marine life (e.g., gray whales, fin whales, leatherback turtles, etc.) will be made available to the Working Group by advisors and other experts to help inform the RAMP's development and continued evolution.

**Historical "norm":** the scoring baseline is based on historical "norms", with the intention to highlight/focus attention (i.e., raise the flag) under anomalous conditions.

**Entanglements:** the Working Group has identified the following as priorities for tracking entanglements to include any marine life entanglements in CA Dungeness crab fishing gear and any entanglements observed/occurring in CA waters, regardless of fishing gear type.

Entanglements are measurements of actual risk, rather than expected risk:

- Entanglements will be considered in terms of patterns (e.g., multiple entanglements over a defined period of time)
- RAF evaluation is based on confirmed and verified entanglements
- Certain entanglement circumstances can mobilize team discussions without other factors in play

*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/>.*