

CALIFORNIA DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING GEAR WORKING GROUP

May-October 2019 Work Plan

The following has been developed to guide the activities of the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group (Working Group) from May-October 2019. This work plan has been informed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) charge to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as part of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) process.

Task/Item	When*	Lead
WORKING GROUP DEVELOPMENT - April-September 2019		
Review and finalize Working Group Charter to guide work conducted in August 2019 and beyond	Apr-Jul	Working Group (WG)
Complete nomination, interview, and selection process to fill open seats on the Working Group, additional information is available here	Apr-Jun	Facilitation Team
Onboard new Working Group participants including initial introductory webinar and in-person orientation	Jul-Sep	Facilitation Team/Internal Planning Team (agencies)
GEAR INNOVATIONS TESTING - June-October 2019		
Develop guidance document for testing gear innovations, additional information is available here	Early Jun	CDFW/LED
Document testing and report results to the Working Group	Jun-Aug	Gear Innovations Project Team
Create 2019-20 Best Practices Guide	Sep-Oct	CDFW/Communications Project Team
RAMP DEVELOPMENT - May-September 2019		
Develop settlement presentation summarizing terms and requirements	May	CDFW
Develop and refine Blue whale, Humpback whale, and Leatherback turtle risk assessment framework (RAF) objective criteria (examples of past Humpback whale RAFs are available here)	May-Jul	Whales Project Team/Scott Benson/CDFW/Facilitation Team
Develop Management Measures Toolbox (MMT) that details potential management options to be implemented as needed during 2019-2020 season	Jul-Sep	CDFW/WG
Plan for 2019-20 season - Discuss lessons learned from 2018-19 RAMP, identify needed changes for 2019-20 RAMP	Aug/Sep	Full WG/Facilitation Team
RAMP REGULATIONS - August-September 2019		
CDFW to prepare draft RAMP regulations and receive Working Group feedback	May-Aug	CDFW, WG
Start RAMP rulemaking process	Sep	CDFW
AERIAL/VESSEL SURVEYS - May-October 2019		
Develop training manual to support Working Group and others interested in participating in aerial surveys	Aug	CDFW/Karin
Host volunteer training for Working Group and others interested in participating in aerial surveys, confirm survey schedule	Sep	CDFW
Confirm survey schedule for 2019-20 fishing season	Sep/Oct	CDFW/Facilitation Team
SOLAR LOGGERS - June-October 2019		
Provide monthly updates to Working Group	Monthly	Kathi/Project Team
Confirm Solar Logger Project Team participants	Oct	Kathi/Project Team
ADDITIONAL ITEMS		
Implement RAMP operations for 2019-20 season	Nov 2019 - Jul 2020	Full WG/Facilitation Team

For additional information on CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries program, visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries. For additional information on the Working Group, visit www.opc.ca.gov/whale-entanglement-working-group/.

*Timeline subject to change