

California Dungeness Crab Task Force Meeting


October 29-30, 2024




Agenda Item 3. Receive updates and discuss California commercial Dungeness crab fishery topics.



Updates - From CDFW



COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERY INFORMATION FOR 2024-25



Dungeness crab
Illustration by Claudia Makeyev

CONTENTS

Reducing Marine Life Entanglement Risk

- *Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program*
- *Report Entanglements*
- *Conservation Plan Update*
- *NOAA Take Reduction Team*
- *Line Marking*
- *Electronic Monitoring*
- *Update to Gear Retrieval Regulations*

2023-2024 Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery Season

Important Enforcement Reminders

REMINDER: Bi-Weekly Fishing Activity Reports

Update to Fishing Block Codes

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is providing a summary of IMPORTANT updates and developments affecting the commercial Dungeness crab fishery that includes measures to reduce risk of marine life entanglement of whales and sea turtles.

CDFW Updates - Outline

- CDFW Newsletter
- Latest Domoic Acid Results
- 2024 Quality Testing Logistics
- CDPH Proposed Evisceration Regulations: Public comment
- 2025 CDFW Proposed Recreational Gear Changes

2023-24 Commercial Dungeness Crab Season Totals

Region	Zones	Total Pounds (millions)	Ex-Vessel Value (millions)	Average Price per Pound	Season Duration
Northern Management Area	1 & 2	5.1	\$18.0	\$4.12	Jan 5, 2024 - July 15, 2024*
Central Management Area	3, 4, 5 & 6	8.8	\$29.9	\$4.06	Jan 18, 2024 - Apr 8, 2024**
Statewide	All	13.9	\$47.9	\$4.09	N/A

*Season delayed in Zones 1 & 2 due to quality testing and marine life entanglement risk.

**Season delayed and closed early in Zones 3, 4, 5 & 6 due to marine life entanglement risk. A 50% gear reduction was in place for the entire season.

Biweekly Reports Updated Online Site

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/crab>



Dungeness Crab. *CDFW photo by C. Juhasz.*



Red Rock Crab. *CDFW photo by C. Juhasz.*

[Whale Safe Fisheries - Risk Assessment Program >](#)

[Waters Opened or Closed to Crab Fishing Due to Public Health Hazards >](#)

[Subscribe to Marine Region News >](#)

[Submit Biweekly Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishing Report >](#)

Biweekly Reports Updated Online Site

To start, enter your email address so a copy of your report will be sent to you.

Your Email Address

What is the reporting period for this fishing activity report (select one)? Note: each reporting period covers the previous two weeks of fishing activity.

1. Reporting Period

Does your Dungeness crab vessel permit start with CT or CN (select one)?

2a. Permit: CT or CN

What is your Dungeness crab vessel permit number (4-digit number following CT or CN)?

2b. Permit: Permit Number

What is the tier of your Dungeness crab vessel permit (select one)?

2c. Permit: Tier

In which RAMP Fishing Zone were traps deployed? Check all that apply. (Map of Fishing Zones here: [RAMP Fishing Zones_1-6.png](#))

3. Fishing Zone

How many traps did you deploy in this fishing zone?



<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries/Crab-Report>

CDPH Domoic Acid Test Results (Oct. 25, 2024)



<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/pages/fdbprograms/foodsafetyprogram/domoicacid.aspx>

CDPH SUMMARY OF DOMOIC ACID LEVELS IN CRABS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 - OCTOBER 24, 2024

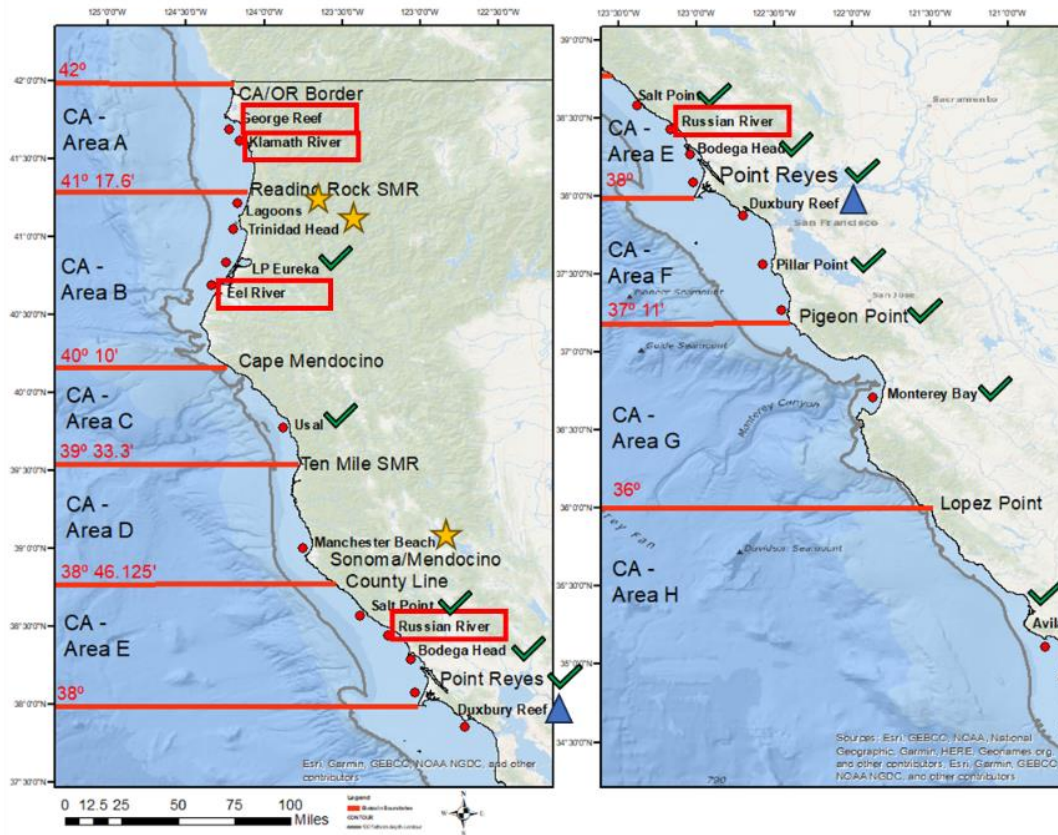
PORT	COLLECTION SITE	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATE	CRAB TYPE VISCERA	INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE RESULTS (FDA ACTION LEVEL >30 PPM)						AVERAGE LEVEL (Information Only)	PERCENT OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL
Half Moon Bay/SF	Pillar Point	9/22/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	Non-Detect	0%
Half Moon Bay/SF	Pigeon Point	9/22/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	Non-Detect	0%
Bodega Bay	Point Reyes	9/24/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	2.5	12	<2.5	4.8	18	6.2	0%
Bodega Bay	Bodega Head	9/24/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	2.5	<2.5	7.8	1.7	0%
Bodega Bay	Russian River	9/24/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	4.2	49	<2.5	44	27	20.7	33.3%
Bodega Bay	Salt Point	9/24/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	16	<2.5	2.7	0%
Monterey	Monterey Bay	10/4/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	<2.5	3.3	<2.5	5.8	<2.5	1.5	0%
Bodega Bay	Russian River - 1st repeat	10/6/2024	Dungeness Crab	<2.5	3.3	7.7	38	<2.5	<2.5	8.2	16.7%
Eureka	LP Eureka	10/8/2024	Dungeness Crab	25	9	<2.5	<2.5	15	23	12.0	0%
Eureka	Eel River	10/8/2024	Dungeness Crab	49	20	14	4.9	8	11	17.8	16.7%
Morro Bay	Avila Beach	10/11/2024	Dungeness Crab	8.1	6.7	<2.5	3.7	3	4.3	4.3	0%
Ft. Bragg	Usal	10/15/2024	Dungeness Crab	3.1	6.7	2.7	4	4	3.7	4	0%
Crescent City	Klamath River	10/12/2024	Dungeness Crab	51	98	18	10	37	12	37.7	50%
Crescent City	George Reef	10/12/2024	Dungeness Crab	21	34	25	19	7.8	29	22.6	16.7%

1 SET = 6 SAMPLES

Biotoxin Management Areas (BMAs)

Status:

- 14 sites collected
 - 1 awaiting results
 - 4 sites need retesting
- 3 sites need samples



2024 Quality Test Logistics

BMA A & B: DA results currently affect testing in Crescent City, Trinidad & Eureka

Quality Test Dates:

- First Round – Determines **Dec 1** or **Dec 16**
 - Target completion: Nov 1-15
 - Decision by: Fri., Nov 22
- Second Round – Determines **Dec 16** or **Dec 31**
 - Target completion: Dec 1-5
 - Decision by: Fri., Dec 6
- Third Round – Determines **Dec 31** or **Jan 15**
 - Target completion: Dec 15-19
 - Decision by: Fri., Dec 20

CDPH Evisceration Program: Public Comment Until Nov. 17, 2024



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Senate Bill (SB) 80 Comment Period
Food and Drug Branch



Good Afternoon,

The Department of Public Health (the Department) is proposing to add sections 8056 through 8067 (consecutive) into Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations concerning Eviscerated Crab. You may review the proposal in the Office of Administrative Law's California Notice Register on page 24 under the following link [California Regulatory Notice Register 2024, Volume Number 41-Z](#)

The Justification and regulation text provide the Department's notice pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 111224.6(b)(3). The Department indicates that Ali Hossain 747-228-9905 is the contact for further information, including information on how to comment please email FDBComments@cdph.ca.gov.

The California Department of Public Health's (Department) will accept comments on this proposal until November 17, 2024.

To request a copy of justification or the regulation text in an alternate format, please email Regulations@cdph.ca.gov.

The regulatory documents for this action can be found at: [DPH-24-004 \(ca.gov\)](#).

2025 Proposed Recreational Gear Changes

1. Allow for specific Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) trap validation stamp
2. Prohibit tampering of hoop nets without permission of operator
3. Specify one main buoy for northern hoop net surface gear
4. Update recreational entanglement evaluation:
 - a) Add trigger: entanglement number
 - b) Add management action: depth restriction
5. Prohibit use of unique line marks from other fisheries

Agenda Item 5. Presentation of draft regulatory changes to Section 132.2 Title 14, CCR, including but not limited to retrieval of lost fishing gear in-season and post-season to address entanglement concerns.



132.2 Rulemaking

❖ **Original 132.2 Regulations**

- Retrieval of 6 derelict traps per fishing trip during the season and an unlimited number of traps July 16th through October 31st.
- Requires documentation in logbook

❖ **No legal requirement to coordinate with trap owners or CDFW March 2024 Emergency Rulemaking**

- Allows Director to authorize retrieval of an unlimited number of traps during early season closures

❖ **March 2025 Proposed Permanent Rulemaking**

- Retains early season closure provision and adds season delays
- Adds reporting requirement

132.2 Rulemaking

❖ Gear Retrieval Reporting:

- On or before the first day of every month, report the following information to **LostGear@wildlife.ca.gov**:
 - date and time of trap retrieval events
 - number of retrieved traps
 - the location of the retrieval events
 - any tag information or buoy markings
 - reasons why the retrieving vessel operator believes the traps are derelict and subject to retrieval under this Section.

❖ Public Comment Ends Nov. 11

- Written comment submitted to regulations@Wildlife.ca.gov

Agenda Item 6. Discussion about marine life entanglements in the California Dungeness crab fishery and the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) including, but not limited to, the draft Conservation Plan, anticipated regulatory changes, line marking, electronic monitoring, etc.



Whale Safe Fisheries Project Updates

- Risk Assessment Summary and Schedule
- Entanglement update
- Conservation Plan / Incidental Take Permit
- RAMP 2.0
- Line Marking Update & Procurement



2024-25 Risk Assessments

Tentative Dates for Fall/Winter Working Group meetings:

1. Oct 22nd

- Rec opener - November 2
- CMA opener- November 15

2. Nov 13th or 19th (inform Dec 1 opener)

3. Dec 5th (inform Dec 15 opener)

4. Dec 18th (inform Dec 31 opener)

5. Jan 7th (inform Jan 15 opener)

6. Feb 11th

Spring assessment schedule will be set in early February



2024 CA Entanglements

Confirmed Entanglements Involving Humpback Whales (as of October 22, 2024)

CA Commercial Dungeness

Crab Gear: 4

- May 17: Monterey
- Sep 27: Monterey
- Sep 28: Monterey
- Oct 11: Monterey

Unknown Fishing Gear off CA: 11

- May 17: Monterey
- Jul 13: Los Angeles
- Sep 2: San Diego
- Sep 5: San Diego
- Sep 21: Monterey
- Sep 22: Monterey
- Sep 27: Monterey
- Oct 9: Half Moon Bay
- Oct 19: Pescadero
- Oct 20: Monterey
- Oct 22: Monterey



Impact Scores

Actionable Species	Current Fishing Season Impact Score (2024-25)	Current Calendar Year Impact Score (2024)	3-Year Rolling Average
Humpback whales	0	7.3*	5.82*
Leatherback sea turtle	0	0	0.33

*subject to change pending additional review

Conservation Plan/ ITP Application

- Conservation Plan/ITP update and timeline

RAMP 2.0 Rulemaking

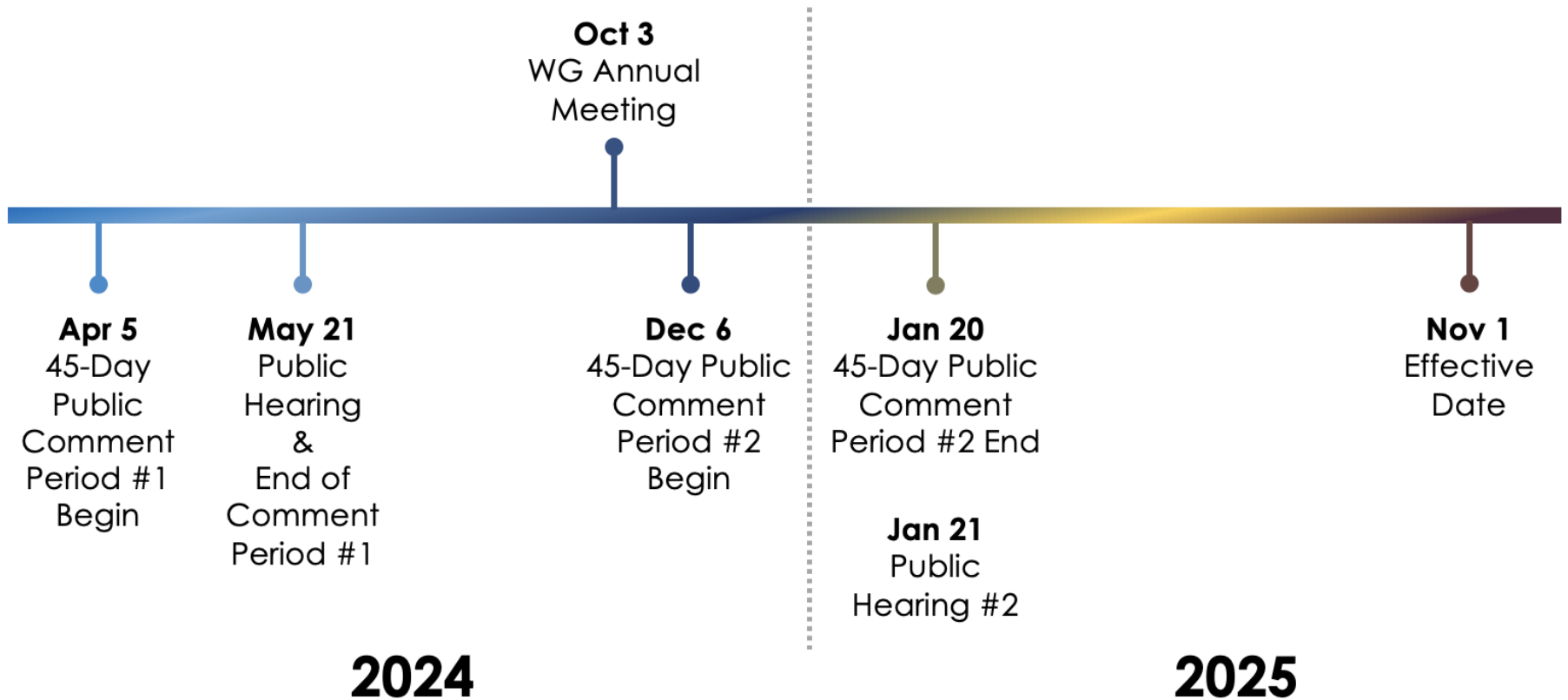
❖ **Timeline**

❖ **Comment period**

❖ **Summary of changes**



Current RAMP 2.0 Rulemaking Timeline



RAMP 2.0 Summary of Changes Since Public Notice

Changes from First Public Comment Period	Notes
Definitions (a)	"Impact Score Calculation" will be retained for 2024-25 season
Triggers for Management Action (c)	Shift to Entanglement Evaluation alignment beginning in 2025-26 season
Management Considerations (d)	Retain original text regarding economic impact to the Fleet
Management Actions (e)	Remove proposed Surface Gear and Active Tending management actions
	Proposed Alternative Gear language is retained (after Fishery Closure); no change
Mandatory Data Reporting Requirements (g)	Proposed language is retained; no changes
Gear Identification (h)	Proposed buoy marking implementation date changed from 2024 to 2025
	Disallows the use of line colors for WA and OR Proposed line marking implementation timeline is revised Exemption included for buoy gangions
Alternative Gear (i)	Add free public access to approximate gear locations to minimize gear conflict


Line Marking Specific Update

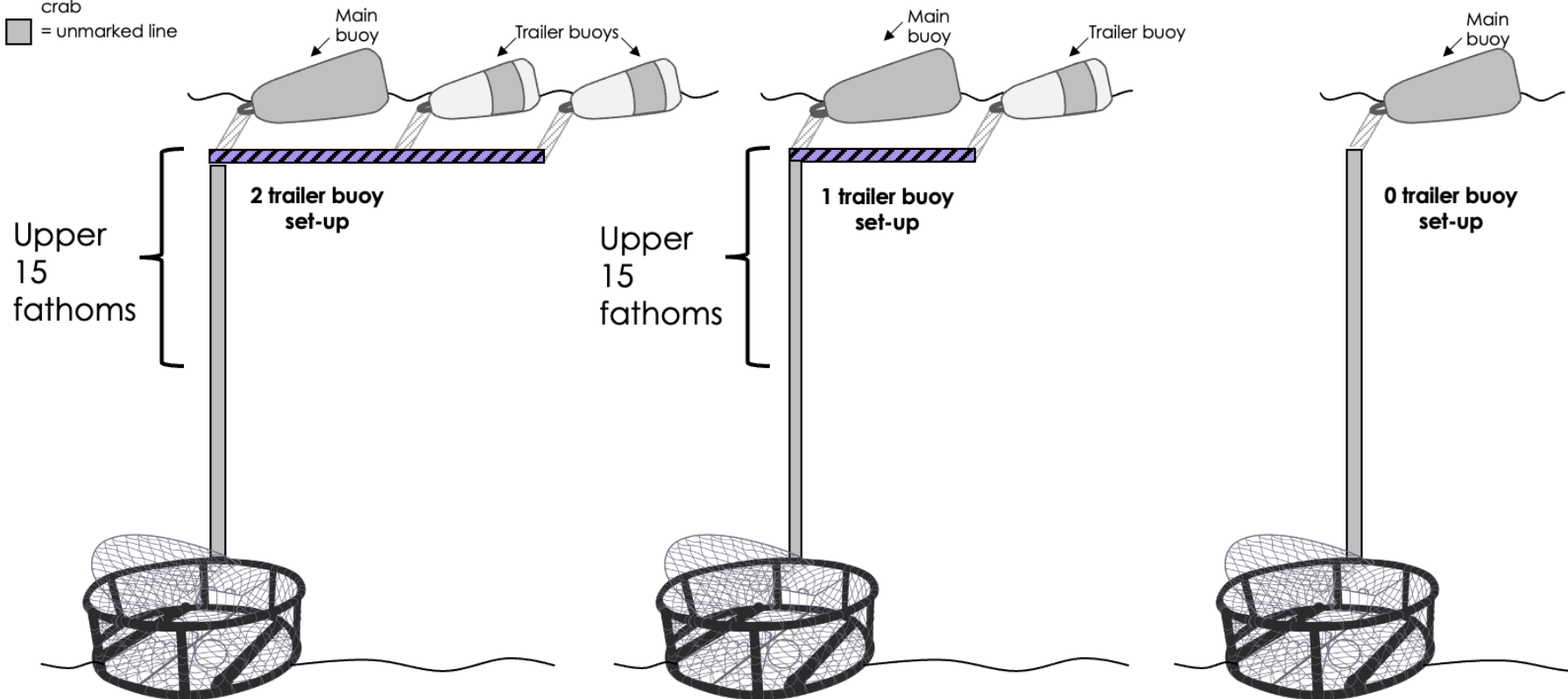
- Line marking will be required for issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP)
- Full compliance of line marking includes marking of the upper 15 fathoms and all “surface gear” between buoys
- Phased Implementation
 - Phase 1 – Nov 2025: mark all surface gear (and buoys)
 - Phase 2 – Nov 2026: 25% of trap tier marked
 - Phase 3 – Nov 2027: 50% of trap tier marked
 - Phase 4 – Nov 2028: 100% of trap tier marked



California Dungeness Crab Fishery Line Marking

November 2025-Surface Gear

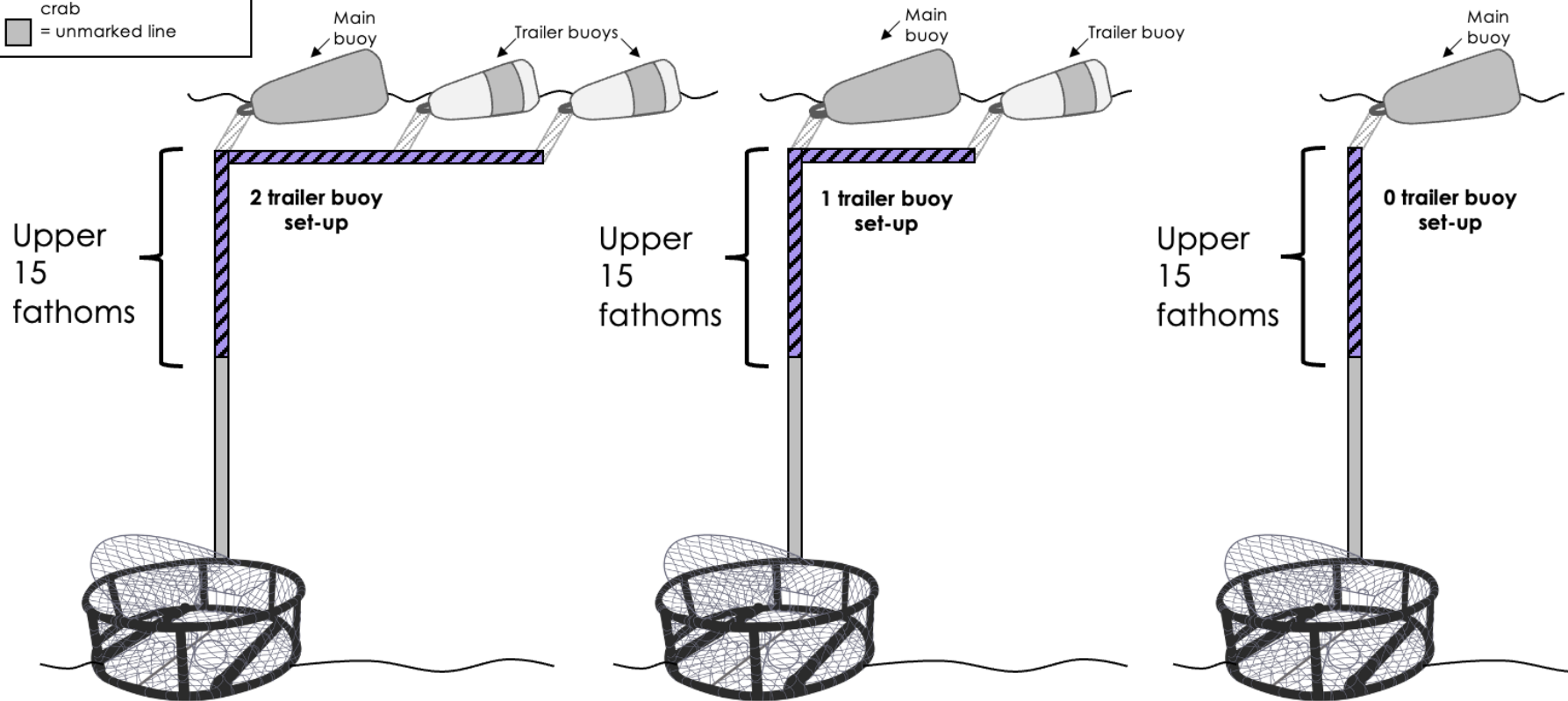
-  = Purple CA & Black Commercial Dungeness crab
-  = unmarked line



California Dungeness Crab Fishery Line Marking

November 2026-November 2028
Surface Gear & Upper 15 fathoms

-  = Purple CA & Black Commercial Dungeness crab
-  = unmarked line



Line Marking Methods

Manufactured
Line





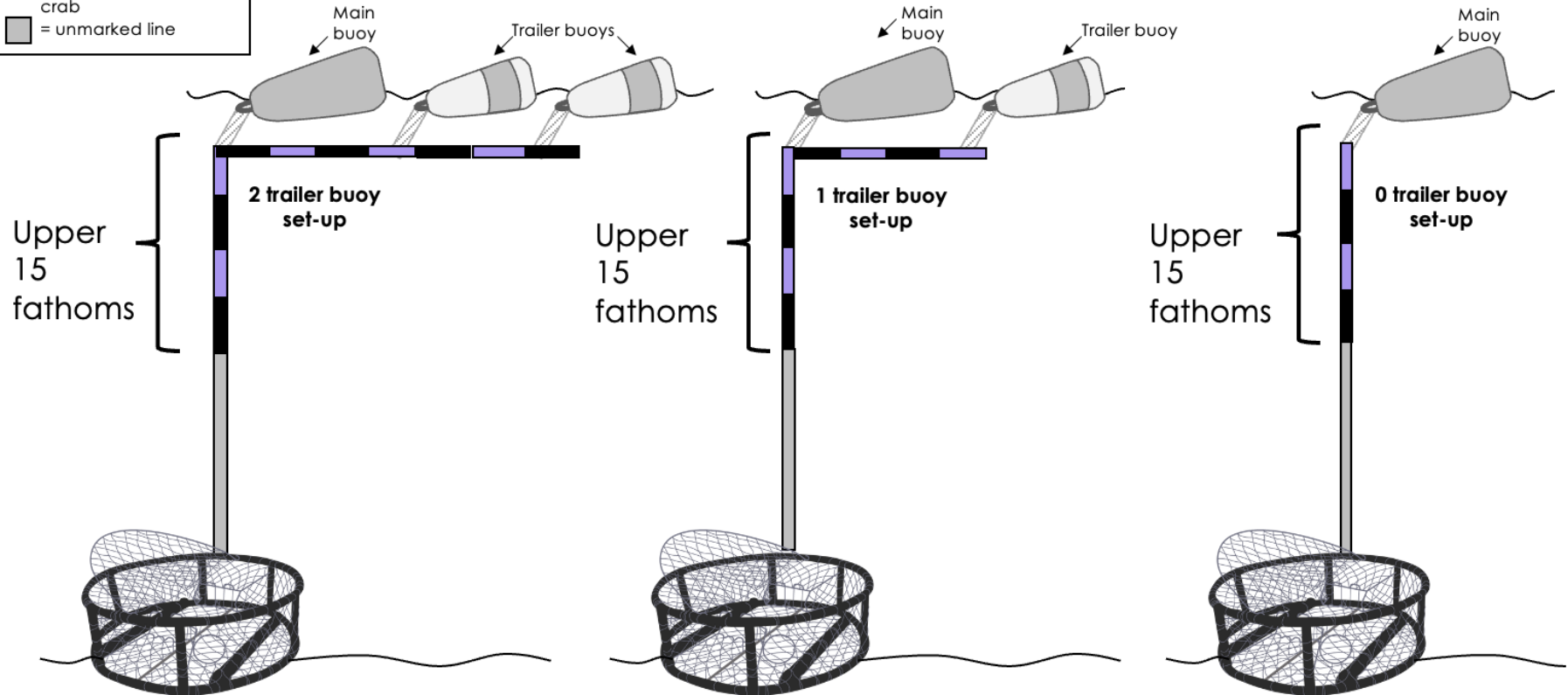
Painted Line



California Dungeness Crab Fishery Line Marking

Marked upper 15 fathoms and "surface gear" using paint

-  = Purple CA & Black Commercial Dungeness crab
-  = unmarked line



Line Procurement

