

California Dungeness Crab Task Force Executive Committee Call

Thursday, May 29, 2024 from 10am-12pm

DCTF Task Force

supported by the DCTF Admin Team:

Rachelle Fisher, Principal, Strategic Earth

Kelly Sayce, Founder & HEO, Strategic Earth

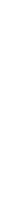
Sara Gené, Principal, Strategic Earth



Troubleshooting

- Phone
 - Use the mute button on your phone
 - Try pressing *6
 - *9 to raise hand
- Computer/App
 - Click the microphone on the bottom-left of your screen
 - Use the chat box at the bottom of the screen to ask for help

Email info@dungenesscrabtaskforce.com Text 310-738-2665



DCTF and Executive Committee (EC)

- DCTF is an advisory body, makes recommendations to the state to help inform management of the California Dungeness crab fishery (Fish and Game Code §8276.4)
- EC cannot make decisions on behalf of DCTF
 - EC will help to inform and refine topics that may be included on the DCTF's agenda



1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda

- DCTF Admin Team
- DCTF EC Members and Alternates
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- Members of the Public



Meeting Goal

To provide updates on topics directly impacting the Dungeness crab fishery, and discuss and prioritize topics for consideration by the full DCTF membership.



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, agenda overview
2. Public comment on non-agenda items
3. Updates
4. Topics
 - a. Retrieving lost gear post-season
 - b. Surface buoy markings requirements
 - c. Buoy trackers
5. Confirm priority topics for future EC meetings
6. Adjourn

Anticipated Outcomes/Outputs

- Identify if any of the topics should be moved forward to the next EC meeting & full DCTF this fall
- Meeting summary // Zoom recording - available for 30 days
- No formal recommendations



DCTF Meeting Agreements

- Arrive promptly and be prepared
- Stay for the duration of the entire call - inform Admin Team if not possible
- Minimize actions that could be distracting during discussions (put yourself on mute when not speaking)
- Participate in a problem-solving approach based on respectful and constructive discussion, where the interests of all participants and the public are considered
- Listen for understanding and openly discuss issues with others who hold diverse views; acknowledge and seek clarification; and verify assumptions
- Personal attacks and inappropriate language will not be tolerated



2. General Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)



General Public Comment

1. State your name and affiliation clearly
 2. Public will have 3 minutes to speak
- DCTF Executive Committee may also call on members of the public
 - Clarifying questions are permitted
 - Please wait for an EC member or Admin Team to address you
 - There is a public comment period for each agenda item and non-agenda items



3. Updates



Updates

- DCTF Commercial Fishing Elections & Non-commercial Fishing Appointments
- Risk Assessment Mitigation Program (RAMP)
- Take Reduction Team (TRT)
- Status of DCTF Recommendations



Recommendations

Recommendation #	Legislative, Regulatory, or Administrative Change Requested?	Audience for Recommendation	Vote Count (14 affirmatives needed to pass a recommendation)
1a: Managing the Dungeness Crab Account's Existing Surplus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	18 affirmative 0 opposed 3 absent
1b: Preventing a Continued Surplus in the Dungeness Crab Account	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
2: 96-Hour Gear Servicing Requirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
3: Transiting a Closed Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
4: Streamlined Reporting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
5: Expansion of Lost Gear Recovery	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
6: PCFFA & Updating Triggers	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
7: Alignment Across State and Federal Whale Mitigation Processes	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
8: Funding Support for Line-Marking	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent
9: Funding for Industry-Led Surveys to Support RAMP	n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislature <input type="checkbox"/> CDFW <input type="checkbox"/> FGC	19 affirmative 0 opposed 2 absent

Public Comment

Agenda item 3. Updates on topics involving the Dungeness crab fishery



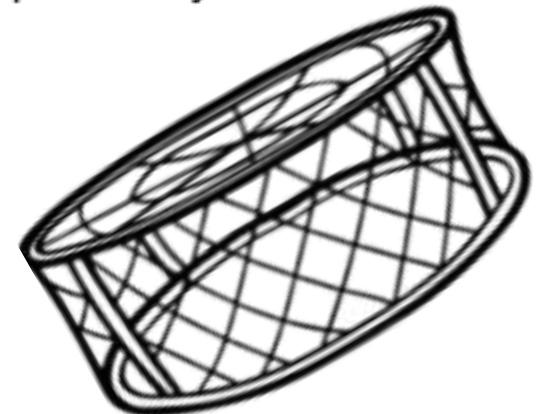
4a. Receive updates about the voluntary post-season lost-gear retrieval efforts recommended by the DCTF and discuss continued interests and concerns with respect to lost gear retrieval.



Lost Gear Recovery

Recommendation 5, Expansion of Lost Gear Recovery: The DCTF recommends the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association (PCFFA) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) work collaboratively to expand California's voluntary lost-gear retrieval efforts. The DCTF recommends the industry work with PCFFA and TNC to coordinate the use of a user-friendly smartphone app developed by TNC. This app would allow commercial Dungeness crab fishermen and all other boaters to document the latitude and longitude from images taken of lost gear on the water and track retrieval efforts. The DCTF believes that crowdsourcing lost trap location data will better support a coastwide, voluntary lost gear recovery effort by the fleet.

The DCTF recommends CDFW, TNC, and PCFFA coordinate immediately to identify an expedited way to incorporate the data collected from the TNC app to satisfy gear retrieval reporting requirements outlined in §132.2, Title 14, CCR. The data collection from the app should eventually replace the monthly reporting outlined in §132.2 and provide more robust and real-time data of lost gear retrieval efforts, including the quantity of Dungeness crab lost gear retrieved from the water. The DCTF requests an update on the progress of this data integration process by the summer of 2025.



Public Comment

Agenda item 4a. Updates about the voluntary post-season lost-gear retrieval efforts and continued interests and concerns



4b. Discuss surface buoy marking requirements.

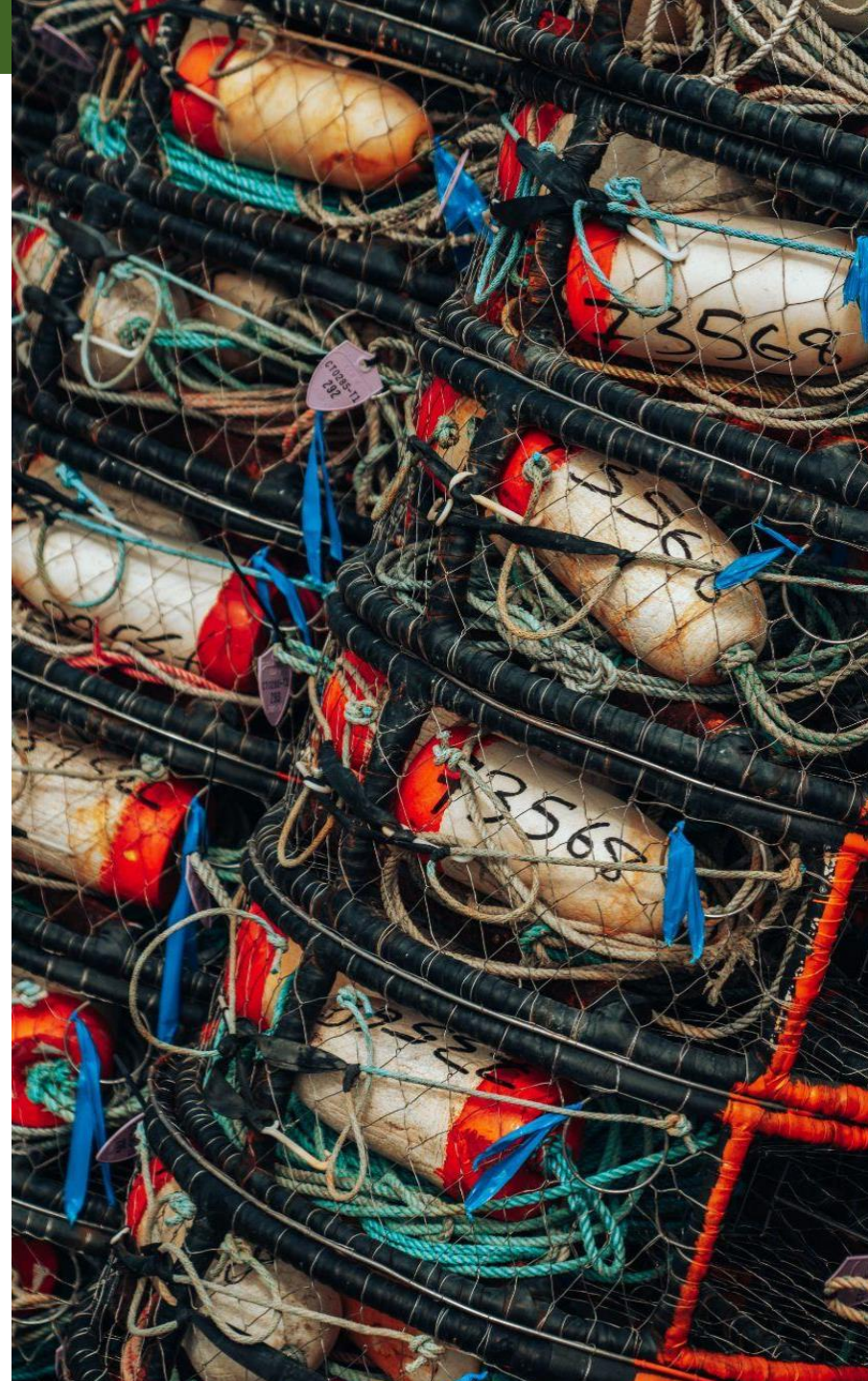


Surface Buoy Marking

Is requiring L# on buoys a widespread problem?

Would requiring permit #s on buoys instead be better for the fleet even with the legal implications?

What is the suggested fix & should it be moved to the DCTF?



Public Comment

Agenda item 4b. Surface buoy marking requirements



4c. Explore the use of buoy trackers as a way to reduce and recover lost gear.



Buoy Trackers - Satellite Tags

- **Pros:**

- Global coverage
- Works without cell coverage
- Minimal noise impact



- **Cons:**

- Subscription or data plan required
- Tracking depends on the frequency of the signal being sent (could be every 4 hrs, some models may have options)



- **Cost:** \$549–\$1,350 per tag

Buoy Trackers - Cellular

- **Pros:**
 - Easy to use with smartphone
 - Lower cost
- **Cons:**
 - Needs cellular network
 - Less reliable in remote areas
- **Cost:**
 - \$100–\$400 per unit + data plan (\$10–\$20/month)



Buoy Trackers - Radio or VHF Transmitters

- **Pros:**
 - No satellite subscription/fee
 - Works without cell coverage
 - Minimal noise impact
 - Realtime tracking
- **Cons:**
 - Short range (1-5 mi depending on line of sight and obstacles)
 - Not the best for fisherman being able to track a buoy from the Port
- **Cost:** \$500–\$1,500 per unit, plus handheld or vessel-mounted receiver (cost of receiver varies)



Public Comment

Agenda item 4c. Buoy trackers use to reduce and recover lost gear.



5. Identify priority topics for future EC discussions and the fall 2025 DCTF meeting.



DCTF Mtg Priority Topics

- Two EC meetings
 - In-season retrieval lost gear // no more than 6 traps per permit holder (+6 onboard) → OR rules, similar to this
 - Buoy tags fees, reduce due to trap reductions during season
 - Focus on biannual, avg previous two years
 - Legislative contacts and relationship building
 - 2024 DCTF recommendations
- DCTF Meeting (Oct/Nov)
 - Gear retrieval
 - Buoy marking



Public Comment

Agenda item 5: Priority Topics for Future EC discussions



Next Steps

- Recording available for 30 days, contact Strategic Earth at info@dungenesscrabtaskforce.com
- Meeting summary
 - Reviewed by EC for accuracy before finalized
 - Posted online: <http://bit.ly/2HbYDIv>
- DCTF meeting, October/November 2025
- Next EC call in June/July 2025



5. Adjourn

