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*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

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Notice of Receipt of Major Amendment Request for Pop-Up Gear Testing in the California Dungeness and Rock Crab Fisheries (Experimental Fishing Permit #2023-02)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1022 of the Fish and Game Code and Section 91, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), on October 22, 2024 the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) notified the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) of an accepted major amendment request for a previously issued Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP). The EFP holder is requesting a major amendment to their existing EFP (Commission tracking ID #2023-02), which was initially approved by the Commission on June 14, 2023 to conduct testing of pop-up gear in the California Dungeness and rock crab fisheries.

Subsection 91(k)(2), Title 14, CCR allows an EFP holder to request amendments to their EFP. Amendments which exceed the allowances placed on the permit by the Commission constitute a "major amendment" and are subject to the same Department review, public notice, Commission action, and Department issuance procedures as a new application (subsections 91(d)(2) through (g), Title 14, CCR).

The applicant has requested the following changes to the terms and conditions of their currently issued EFP:

- 1) increase the number of authorized agents and vessels from 10 to 25;
- 2) increase the number of traps per trawl from 10 to 50 (or as deemed appropriate by the Department);
- 3) increase the maximum number of traps per vessel from 150 to the maximum allowed pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 8276.5 (i.e., "permit tier"); and
- 4) increase the trap service interval from 96 hours to 216 hours.

Pursuant to subsection 91(d)(2), Title 14, CCR the Department will provide a recommendation to the Commission concerning the requested major amendment, including recommended EFP Terms and Conditions (form DFW 1103). As soon as the Department's recommendation is available, but not less than 30 days before the hearing on this application, a notice will be published on the Commission's website at <https://fgc.ca.gov/EFP> and sent to interested individuals providing information on the opportunity for public comment. Please visit www.fgc.ca.gov for additional information.

PLEASE POST THROUGH

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Written comments and information on matters addressed in this notice and relevant to the Department's technical review of the accepted amendment may be submitted to Owen Mulvey- McFerron, EFP Coordinator, at EFP@wildlife.ca.gov.

Please visit www.fgc.ca.gov for additional information.

October 24, 2024

California Fish and Game Commission
Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director