

California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group
2017-18 Pilot Project: Exploring Electronic Reporting Tools to Inform Fleet Dynamics
Request for Volunteers - August 2017

In an effort to reduce the potential risk to whale entanglements, a pilot project will be conducted during the 2017-18 Dungeness crab fishing season to begin collecting fleet dynamics information to better understand the relationship between fishing activity and whale distribution. This project will be conducted by the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Two electronic reporting tools will be tested during the upcoming season:

- **eCatch:** a phone/tablet-based application developed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), eCatch will involve a manual input of fishing activity information, such as GPS coordinates, date/time of fishing activity, and the beginning/end of a string of gear. Data collected while fishing will be stored on the device and transmitted once a wifi connection is available. The app is free and volunteers will be asked to participate in a brief phone/in-person orientation prior to use. <https://www.ecatch.org/>
- **Solar logger:** volunteers will be asked to adhere a small solar logger device to the outside of their wheelhouse. Fishing activity will be collected passively (no manual entry) at regular time intervals (e.g., every 5 seconds). The solar loggers, made available by Pelagic Data Systems, cost \$500 for the logger and online access to data collected. This upfront cost is reimbursable as part of the pilot project. <http://www.pelagicdata.com/>

The Working Group is seeking 20-25 commercial fishing volunteers to test one or both of these tools, ideally, throughout the duration of the season. We are interested in involving volunteers that span a wide range of fleet characteristics, including representation across all major ports, small and large boat operations, fishermen who fish at different depths, and all trap tier allocations.

Confidentiality and Data Access

Fishermen will have full control over data sharing and access, and all data collected via the tools will be proprietary to each volunteer. No individual data will be made accessible to the Working Group, rather it will only be shared out in an aggregated resolution. Agreements identifying fishermen as having sole access to their individual data will be made available for all volunteers to review and sign.

Data Storage and Analysis

Data collected by both tools will be stored on secure servers. While the Working Group is continuing to discuss options for data analysis, volunteers involved in the pilot should be prepared to share their data in an aggregated form to help inform project goals. The Working Group will work in close collaboration with each volunteer to ensure the data analysis process is clear and that proprietary information is not disclosed.

Timing and Commitments

The following outlines a general timeline for key project milestones:

- August: Confirmation of volunteer participation
- September: Phone/webinar trainings for both tools, distribute app/logger

- October: Test tools (each fisherman will be requested to test the tools over a 14 day period), troubleshoot any issues
- November/December: Launch tools, check-ins with project coordinator (email, text)
- February/March: Confirm approach to data analysis will all volunteers
- Spring 2018: Preliminary reporting to Working Group

Additional Information

This is a voluntary study and participants will not be compensated for their time. Direct costs related to the purchase of solar loggers can be reimbursed. If you are volunteering to assist in this effort, it will be important to ensure that you are able to participate without compromising your fishing for the season. The study requires each tool (unless otherwise stated) to be used throughout the study period and used during each fishing trip.

Please contact Kelly Sayce if you are interested in participating or have any questions (707-832-4088 or kelly@strategicearth.com). Volunteers are requested to confirm participation by October 15, 2017.

Participation Confirmation Form

I agree to participate to the best of my ability in the Electronic Reporting Pilot Project during the 2017-18 fishing season.

Name _____ Port/Location _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____