

**Draft Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) Assumptions
Voluntary Pilot, 2017-18 CA Dungeness Crab Fishing Season
California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group**

The 2017-18 RAMP pilot will be conducted under the following working assumptions:

CA Dungeness Crab Fishery: the pilot will include both commercial and recreational fishing.

State-managed Fisheries: the pilot will focus on state-managed fisheries only. There is expressed interest to work with the PFMC in the near future.

Voluntary: the RAMP will be a voluntary program during the 2017-18 season. It is anticipated core components of the program will become mandatory in future seasons.

Management Action: the RAMP Framework is designed to indicate a need for more focused attention on the issue of whale entanglements in a fishery/area by an interdisciplinary team. No management measures are prescribed by the framework.

Spatial Scale: data will be considered at the statewide level at the start of the fishing season, with certain factors focusing on regional (north/south) and/or port level information as the fishing season progresses.

Seasonal: the RAMP Framework will consider factors across a seasonal calendar/scale.

Marine Mammals: the pilot will focus on humpback whales. The intention is for information gathered during the pilot to be applicable to other whales (e.g., blues) and other endangered marine animals (e.g., leatherback turtles). There has been some expressed interest to expand beyond humpbacks following the pilot phase (blues, greys, turtles, etc.), with a request to have experts on those species available to help inform the Working Group's efforts. In July, the Working Group requested CDFW and NMFS to discuss how both agencies intend to consider turtles in the short and longer term.

Historical "norm": the RAMP Framework scoring baseline is based on historical "norms", with the intention to highlight/focus attention (i.e., raise the flag) under anomalous conditions.

Entanglements:

- The Working Group has identified the following as priorities for tracking entanglements:
 - Any entanglements in CA Dungeness crab fishing gear
 - Any entanglements observed/occurring in CA waters, regardless of fishing gear type
- Entanglements are measures of actual risk, rather than expected risk
- Entanglements will be considered in terms of patterns (e.g., multiple entanglements over a defined period of time)
- Scoring is based on verified entanglements
- Certain entanglement circumstances can mobilize team discussions without other factors in play