

**California Whale and Sea Turtle Entanglement Discussion  
Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019 | 8:30AM – 5:00PM  
Thursday, September 5, 2019 | 8:00AM – 5:00PM**

*Location: Justice Joseph A. Rattigan Building, 50 D. St, Santa Rosa, 95404 | Room 410*

*Listen only/screen share details: (424) 228-8722 No PIN necessary | [www.uberconference.com/strategiearth](http://www.uberconference.com/strategiearth)*

*Interested members of the public are invited to attend this working meeting **as listeners only** either in-person or via the conference line. There will not be opportunities for public comment. All participants will be asked to identify themselves. A meeting summary will be made available on the Working Group's webpage: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/whale-entanglement-working-group>.*

**Meeting Goal: To discuss modifications of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) for the 2019-20 fishing season in consideration of the recent settlement agreement; provide input to inform the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the RAMP rulemaking and Incidental Take Permit (ITP) process.**

*Meeting Objectives*

- *Build a shared understanding of the relationships across the RAMP, ITP process, and settlement requirements and how these parallel and directly related processes will affect the 2019-20 fishing season and inform CDFW's development of the RAMP rulemaking and draft Conservation Plan (CP).*
- *Continue to develop the RAMP for humpback whales, blue whales, and leatherback turtles, including fine-tuning risk factors and confirming management measures, in anticipation of the 2019-20 fishing season, as well as to inform a draft RAMP rulemaking (Title 14) and draft CP.*
- *Confirm process for evaluating risk factors in advance of and during the 2019-20 fishing season, including the process for developing recommendations to reduce entanglement risk for consideration by the CDFW Director, and confirm 2019-20 Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) schedule.*
- *Confirm Working Group recommendations and identify a process and timeline for sharing meeting outcomes with target audiences, together with other activities to be conducted in advance of the 2019-20 fishing season.*

**DAY 1: Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

**Welcome, Meeting Overview & Purpose (8:30am-9:00am)**

*Confirm all in attendance and Working Group's intentions for the 2-day meeting. Review meeting agenda, approach, goals, and meeting agreements. Reference materials: [List of anticipated meeting participants \(see below\)](#), [meeting agenda](#)*

**Understanding the Connections (9:00am-10:30am)**

*Provide updates on the status of available information, including entanglements, and the 2018-19 RAMP Post-season RAF Assessment and how they will inform discussions on subsequent agenda topics throughout the day. Overview of the relationships across the RAMP, CP/ITP process, and settlement requirements. Confirm shared understanding of how these parallel and directly related processes will be entered into during this meeting to plan for the 2019-20 fishing season and inform CDFW's development of a RAMP rulemaking and draft CP. Reference materials: [CDFW Settlement Implementation presentation](#), [Habitat Conservation Plan Handbook](#), [Working Group Work Plan](#)*

**Review and Refine Draft RAMP Regulations (10:30am-4:30pm, includes Working Lunch\*)**

*Discuss draft RAMP regulation concepts and finalize core components for inclusion in the rulemaking and to inform the 2019-20 fishing season. Confirm an interim list of management measures and update risk assessment factors for humpback whales, blue whales, and leatherback turtles including objective criteria and thresholds. Where possible, make connections between management measures and risk thresholds to support future Evaluation Team efforts. Reference materials: [Straw](#)*

*management measures proposal from CDFW, Draft updated Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) for humpbacks, blues, and leatherbacks, Draft straw proposal of 'decision tree' approach to connecting management measures to risk factors*

### **Updates and Planning for Day 2 (4:30pm-5:00pm)**

*As information is available, provide a brief update on the status of General Funds. Recap Working Group discussions from Day 1, identify Day 2 meeting priorities, and provide "homework" for Working Group participants' to complete prior to arriving on Day 2. Note: Discussion may require modifying the Day 2 agenda listed below.*

### **Adjourn Day 1**

### **DAY 2: September 5, 2019**

#### **Recap of Day 1 (8:00am-8:30am)**

*Review discussions, agreements, and ideas discussed during Day 1. Confirm Day 2 meeting goals and anticipated outcomes.*

#### **Continue to Review and Refine Draft RAMP Regulations (8:30am-10:30am)**

*Continue to confirm and fine-tune management measures and the RAF for humpbacks, blues, and leatherbacks. Where possible, make connections between management measures and risk thresholds to support future Evaluation Team efforts. Consider how available data streams, risk factors, and management measures could evolve to support adaptive management. Confirm criteria and thresholds that will be used during the 2019-20 fishing season.*

#### **2019-20 RAMP Planning (10:30am-3:30pm, includes Working Lunch\*)**

*Informed by the RAMP discussions on Day 1 and 2, together with the settlement agreement, confirm process for evaluating risk factors in advance of and during the 2019-20 fishing season including Evaluation Team process to consider, develop, and forward recommendations to reduce entanglement risk to the CDFW Director. Draw on available information related to the risk factors. Confirm 2019-20 RAF meeting schedule based on settlement requirements. [Reference materials: Post-season RAF summary](#)*

#### **Confirm Meeting Outputs and Work to be Conducted in Advance of 2019-20 Season (3:30pm-4:30pm)**

*Confirm Working Group recommendations and identify a process and timeline for sharing meeting outcomes with commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fishermen and the fishing industry, whale watch operators, decision makers, and other target audiences. Confirm product development, work plans, and other activities to be conducted September-November, including finalizing the 2019-20 Best Practices Guide. Identify roles and responsibilities of Working Group participants. [Reference materials: Draft 2018-19 RAF schedule](#)*

#### **Recap and Closing (4:30pm-5:00pm)**

### **Adjourn**

\*Members of the public are invited to join the working lunch session on Days 1 and 2. We recommend meeting attendees bring lunch with them, however, a brief break will be made available for folks to get lunch at a local restaurant.

### **Anticipated Meeting Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<i>Working Group Participants</i>	
Jim Anderson	Commercial Fishing- Half Moon Bay
Ryan Bartling	CDFW Marine Region
Mike Cohen	Commercial Fishing - Port San Luis/Morro Bay
Tom Dempsey	The Nature Conservancy
Calder Deyerle	Commercial Fishing - Monterey
Tom Estes Jr.	Commercial Fishing - Fort Bragg

Kathi (Koontz) George	CA Whale Rescue ( <i>participating remotely</i> )
Rick Harris	Processor
Gerry Hemmingsen	Commercial Fishing - Crescent City
Travis Hunter	Commercial Fishing - Eureka
Morgan Ivens-Duran	CDFW Marine Region
Doug Laughlin	Coastside Fishing Club
Dan Lawson	National Marine Fisheries Service
Tom Mattusch	CPFV Owner/Operator
Lori Mazzuca	United States Coast Guard
John Mellor	Commercial Fishing - San Francisco
Dick Ogg	Commercial Fishing - Bodega Bay
Lauren Saez	National Marine Fisheries Service
Noah Oppenheim	PCFFA
Dan Quinley	CA Coastal Crab Association
Andy Roberts	CDFW Enforcement
Susan Rotwein	Commercial Fishing - Trinidad
Lauren Saez	NMFS
Geoff Shester	Oceana
David Toriumi	Commercial Fishing - Santa Cruz
Andrea Treece	EarthJustice
<i>Working Group Observers</i>	
Ryan Berger	California Whale Rescue
Aliya Rubenstein	The Nature Conservancy
<i>Working Group Advisors</i>	
Scott Benson	NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Pieter Folkens	Large Whale Entanglement Response
Karin Forney	NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Jaime Jahncke	Point Blue
<i>Agency Staff</i>	
Paige Berube	Ocean Protection Council
Sonke Mastrup	CDFW Marine Region
Bob Puccinelli	CDFW Enforcement
<i>Strategic Earth</i>	
Carolyn Kraft	Strategic Earth, Note-taker ( <i>participating remotely</i> )
Rachelle Fisher	Strategic Earth, Co-Facilitator
Kelly Sayce	Strategic Earth, Co-Facilitator

For more information about the Working Group's efforts and the RAMP, including opportunities to provide feedback and share your expertise, visit <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries>, [www.opc.ca.gov/whale-entanglement-working-group](http://www.opc.ca.gov/whale-entanglement-working-group), or contact [info@cawhalegroup.com](mailto:info@cawhalegroup.com).