



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Director's Office  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



February 27, 2020

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable William Monning  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4040  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Megan Dahle  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4208  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Nielsen  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5064  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Wood  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Response to inquiry regarding draft proposed regulations for the Dungeness crab fishery**

Dear Senators McGuire, Monning, Nielsen, Hill and Assemblymembers Dahle and Wood:

Thank you for the recent letter outlining your concerns with the draft proposed regulations for the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP). Please be assured that the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is committed to developing a RAMP rule that minimizes adverse impacts to the fleet while still meeting the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act, federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, state Administrative Procedures Act, and other relevant state and federal statutes.

The Department has engaged with stakeholders throughout the process of developing its regulations, including four meetings between September 2019 and January 2020 with the Whale Entanglement Working Group, which included two public sessions and one meeting with the Dungeness Crab Task Force in October 2019. We have listened and engaged with impacted stakeholders and are in the process of revising the draft RAMP rule to reflect some of the feedback we have received to date. We greatly value the hard work and dedication of the members of the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group and will continue to seek specific feedback on modifications to the draft RAMP rule to achieve our shared objective of a vibrant fishery that minimizes the risk to protected species.

The Honorable Mike McGuire  
The Honorable William Monning  
The Honorable Jim Nielsen  
The Honorable Jerry Hill  
The Honorable Megan Dahle  
The Honorable Jim Wood  
February 27, 2020  
Page 2

We will release a revised draft proposed RAMP rule in the coming weeks which will enable us to receive additional feedback prior to initiating the formal rulemaking process.

I have asked my staff to work with the office of the Chair of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture to schedule a meeting with the affected stakeholders to further discuss these important issues.

Sincerely,



Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

cc: Stafford Lehr, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
[Stafford.Lehr@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Stafford.Lehr@Wildlife.ca.gov)

Clark Blanchard, Acting Deputy Director  
Office of Legislation  
[Clark.Blanchard@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Clark.Blanchard@Wildlife.ca.gov)

Craig Shuman, D. Env. Regional Manager  
Marine Region  
[Craig.Shuman@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Shuman@Wildlife.ca.gov)

Sonke Mastrup  
Environmental Program Manager  
Marine Region  
[Sonke.Mastrup@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Sonke.Mastrup@Wildlife.ca.gov)

Ryan Bartling  
Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist  
Marine Region  
[Ryan.Bartling@Wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Bartling@Wildlife.ca.gov)