2019-2020 BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

FOR MINIMIZING MARINE LIFE ENTANGLEMENT

Whale and sea turtle entanglement is a concern for fishermen, the public, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Ocean Protection Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group developed this guide as part of a proactive and comprehensive approach to addressing entanglements in Dungeness crab gear. Taking these important steps will help maintain the fleet's access to this valuable resource.





BEST PRACTICES

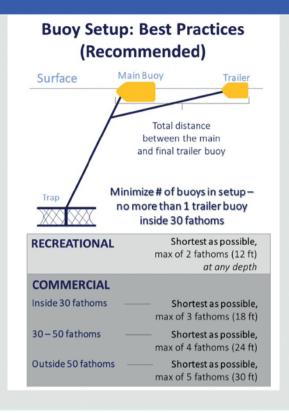
- ADJUST trap line length when changing set location across depths by maintaining optimal scope.
- MINIMIZE knots, leads and scope when compensating for tides, currents, and weather.
- **ELIMINATE** excess lines floating at the surface. Floating line should only be used between the main buoy and the trailer.
- REDUCE slack surface line.
- KEEP vertical lines taut.
- AVOID setting gear in the vicinity of whales and sea turtles.
- COMMUNICATE locations of high whale activity to other fishing boats.
- REMOVE fishing gear before 11:59 pm on the last day of the season.
- PROMPTLY remove gear not being actively fished.
- MARK gear consistent with regulations.
- MAINTAIN gear to ensure lines and buoys are in good working condition so they
 do not break and get lost.
- RETRIEVE lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab traps as authorized in Title 14, CCR Section 132.2 and 132.7.

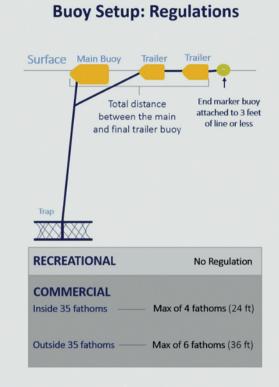




KEEP LINE
BETWEEN
POT AND
MAIN BUOY
TAUT
AND
VERTICAL

REDUCE SLACK SURFACE LINE





IMMEDIATELY REPORT ENTANGLEMENTS

- CALL NMFS RESPONSE HOTLINE: 1-877-SOS-WHALE.
- HAIL THE COAST GUARD: CHANNEL 16.
- NOTE date, time, location and take a photo.
- STAND BY for responders.
- MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF 100 YARDS for the safety of you and the whale.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DISENTANGLE the whale. Removing the easily
 accessible lines at the surface leaves others attached to the whale and may make it
 impossible to detect or remove them.
- RESPOND promptly if contacted by NMFS and CDFW.

