



April 22, 2020

ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Closure of the California Dungeness Crab Commercial Fishery

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has taken final action under the Fish and Game Code with respect to the above-referenced project. On April 20, 2020, the Director of the Department signed a declaration closing the California commercial Dungeness crab fishery south of the Sonoma/Mendocino county line.

For the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Pub. Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.), the Department approved project relying on the Class 7 categorical exemption for “Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources” and the Class 8 categorical exemption for “Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment” contained in CEQA Guideline Sections 15307 and 15308, Title 14, CCR, respectively.

Categorical Exemptions to Protect Natural Resources and the Environment

In compliance with CEQA, the Department approved the project relying on the categorical exemptions contained in CEQA Guidelines of Title 14, CCR: Section 15307 (Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) and Section 15308 (Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment). The exemptions apply to agency actions to protect natural resources and the environment, respectively.

The proposed project will close the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in response to a significant marine life entanglement risk. Lines and buoys of Dungeness crab traps pose a marine life entanglement risk, especially for whales migrating through California waters. The closure will have the overall effect of reducing the entanglement risk by removing traps from the marine environment, and thereby is the proper subject of CEQA's Class 7 and 8 categorical exemptions.