

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: N/A

From: (Public Agency): California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Ste 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Recreational Crab Marine Life Protection Measures

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific:

State waters where crab are fished recreationally.

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: N/A

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project would establish new rules for recreational crab fishing to reduce entanglement of protected marine life. The proposal would also establish information gathering measures to help the management of the fishery.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Fish and Game Commission

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 7 & 8; 14 CCR 15307 & 15308
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: .

Reasons why project is exempt:

Categories 7 and 8 exempt agency actions for the protection of natural resources and the environment, respectively. The proposed project would reduce potential interactions between traps and the marine environment and improve the fishery's management overall. See Attachment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Melissa Miller-Henson

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (916) 653-4899

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:

Date:

Title: Executive Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

ATTACHMENT TO NOTICE OF EXEMPTION **Recreational Crab Marine Life Protection Measures**

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) has taken final action under the Fish and Game Code and the Administrative Procedure Act with respect to the proposed project on December 9, 2020. On August 19, 2020, the Commission authorized publication of a notice of its intent to amend sections 29.80, 29.85, and 701 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CCR”) that establish new measures to reduce marine life entanglement risk from recreational crab traps (California Regulatory Notice Register Z2020-0915-07). The Commission held a discussion hearing on October 14, 2020 and adopted the proposed regulations on December 9, 2020.

Categorical Exemptions to Protect Natural Resources and the Environment

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), the Commission adopted the regulation pertaining to recreational crab trap fishing on the categorical exemptions contained in CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 (Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) and 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 regulations would put in place additional requirements for recreational crab trap fishing such as a trap limit for individual fishers and a maximum service interval. The proposal would also improve information-gathering by identifying all anglers with a dedicated validation and by requiring all traps be marked with lettering that identifies the traps as recreational crab traps. The proposal also gives the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to restrict the fishery when risk of entangling protected marine life is particularly high. The proposal overall is designed to minimize trap loss and entanglement of marine life and to improve information-gathering for a more sustainable fishery, and thus would serve to protect natural resources and the environment.