

# Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval During 2021

Recovery of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear is an important strategy to reduce marine life entanglement risk. Retrieval can occur either through the formal CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program or through voluntary efforts by the Dungeness crab fishery. Available information regarding both types of gear recovery operations during 2021 is provided below.

## CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program

### Program Overview

The CDFW Trap Gear Retrieval Program was established in September 2019 (§132.7, Title 14, CCR). Under the program, CDFW issues a permit to qualified entities (Retrieval Permittees) who oversee commercial trap fishermen (Designated Retrievers) as they remove lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear from the ocean. Retrieval Permittees contact the Dungeness crab vessel permitholder identified on the trap's buoy tag and offer to return the gear in exchange for reasonable compensation. If compensation is not provided, the Retrieval Permittee keeps the gear and may request reimbursement from CDFW. CDFW then levies a per-trap fee on the Dungeness crab vessel permitholder to cover incurred costs. All retrieval activities are documented on a logbook submitted to CDFW.

### By The Numbers

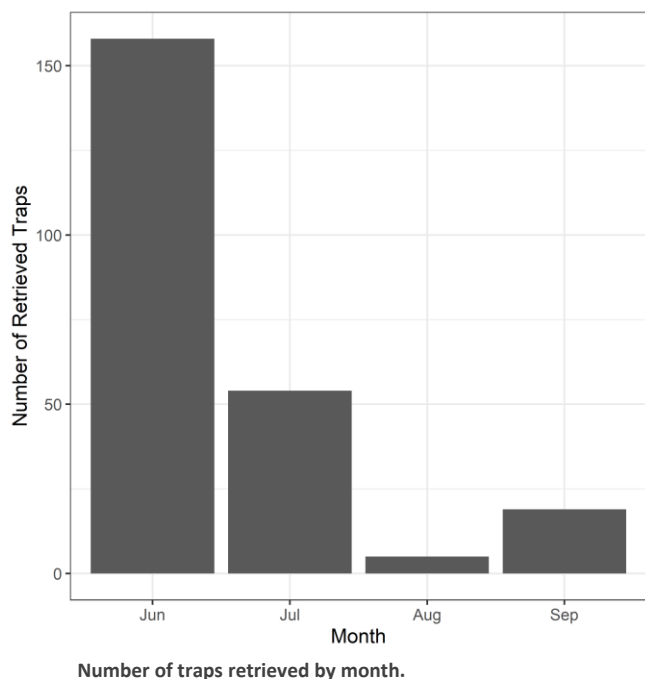
- Retrieval Permits issued: 6
- Active Designated Retrievers: 12
- Retrieval Trips: 21
- Retrieved Traps: 244
- Dungeness crab vessels with retrieved traps: 66
- Average number of traps per Dungeness crab vessel: 3.7
- CDFW reimbursements issued: 14

### How Many Permits Were Issued?

Six permits were issued to organizations based in the following ports: Crescent City, Bodega Bay, San Francisco, Half Moon Bay, and Monterey Bay.

### When Was Gear Retrieved?

In 2021, the commercial Dungeness crab fishery closed statewide on June 1, 2021 and gear retrieval was authorized beginning June 7, 2021 in all Fishing Zones. Retrieval was allowed until September 30. 65% of the gear (158 traps) was retrieved during the month of June.

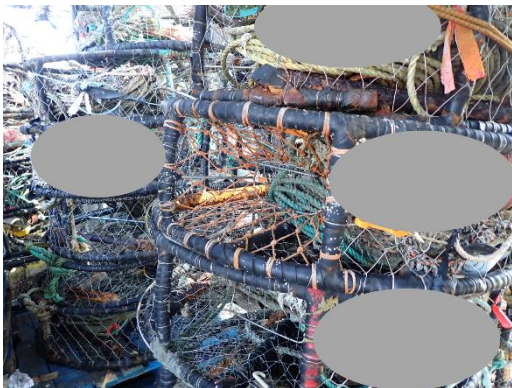


## Where Was Gear Retrieved?

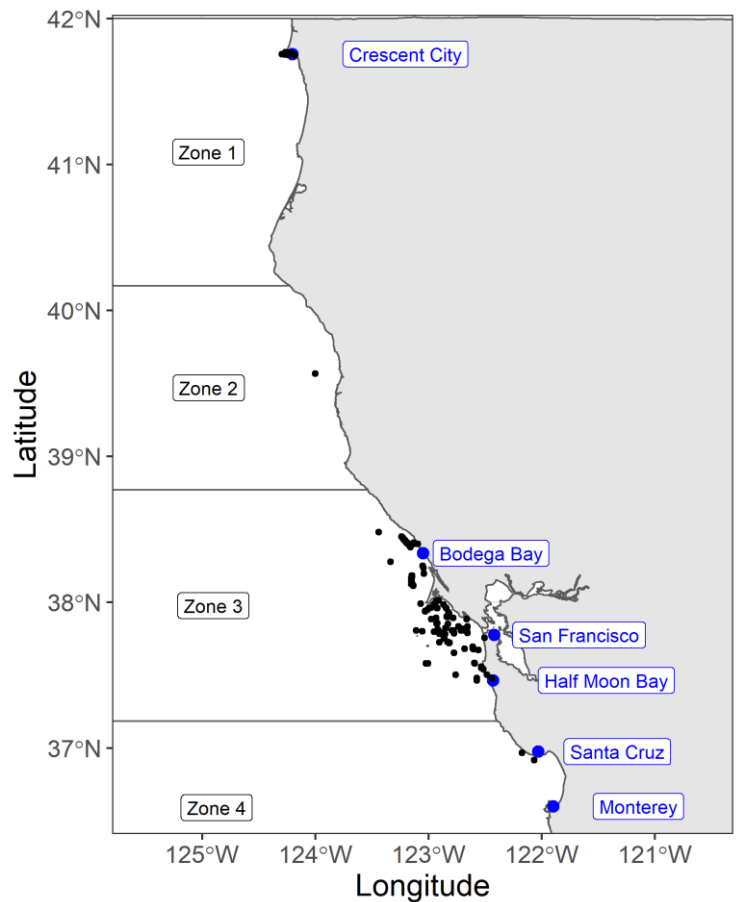
Gear was retrieved under five of the six issued Retrieval Permits, with most gear retrieval out of San Francisco (106 traps) and Bodega Bay (87 traps). Locations of retrieved gear are shown in the map on the left. Totals by RAMP Fishing Zone were:

Zone were:

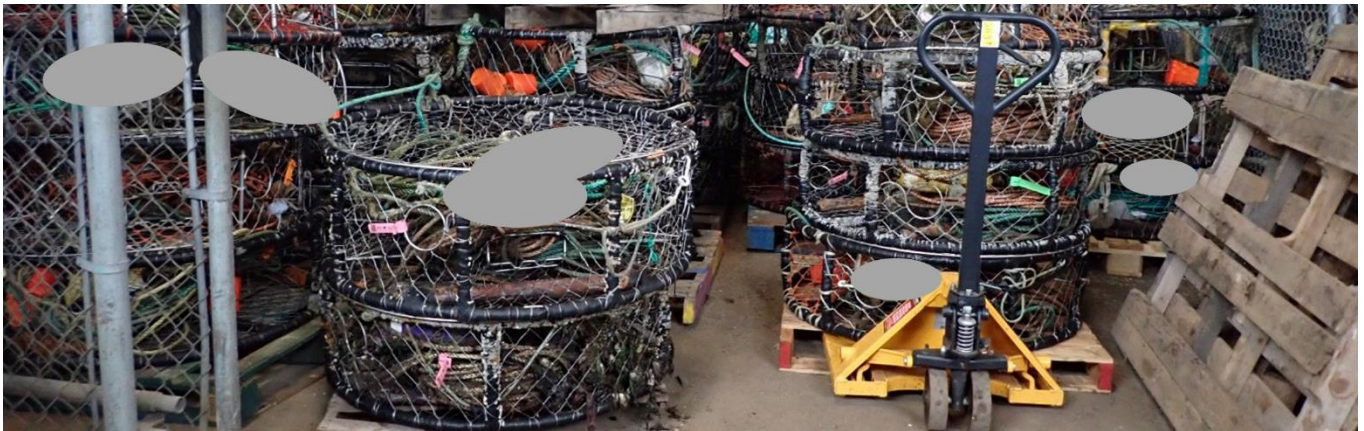
- Fishing Zone 1: 14 traps
- Fishing Zone 2: 1 trap
- Fishing Zone 3: 221 traps
- Fishing Zone 4: 8 traps



Stacks of retrieved trap gear in Bodega Bay.



Retrieved trap locations, RAMP Fishing Zone boundaries, and select ports.



Stacks of retrieved gear in San Francisco.

## Voluntary Retrieval Efforts

§132.2, Title 14, CCR allows for recovery of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear by commercial Dungeness crab vessels. Up to six traps at a time may be recovered at any time, and an unlimited number of traps can be retrieved between July 16 and October 31. Unlike the CDFW program, compensation is not guaranteed. While there is no formal logbook requirement, CDFW encourages all individuals conducting retrieval under §132.2 to share the amount and location of any recovered gear with [WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov) so they can be incorporated into annual totals. In 2021, CDFW received reports of an additional six recovered traps near Trinidad.