

MARINE MAMMAL TAKE REDUCTION TEAM UPDATE

On July 26, 2023, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California adopted a Stipulated Settlement Agreement (Agreement) between NOAA Fisheries and the Center for Biological Diversity to resolve claims in the matter of Center of Biological Diversity v. Raimondo (3:22-cv-00117-JD). Under the Agreement, NOAA Fisheries expressed its intent to issue a scoping notice by November 1, 2023 seeking information relevant to establishing a [Take Reduction Team](#) (TRT) under Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act that would, at a minimum, consider the Category II Federal sablefish pot fishery, and may also be expanded to consider other fisheries in the Pacific Ocean that interact with relevant humpback whale stocks.

As part of this agreement, NOAA Fisheries committed to issue a notice establishing a Team by October 31, 2025, and to convene the first Team meeting by November 30, 2025. In April 2025, NOAA Fisheries notified the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) that it updated the preliminary scope of the Team from addressing three strategic stocks (the two humpback whale stocks and blue whales) and five commercial fisheries, including Federal sablefish pot, CA Dungeness crab pot, OR Dungeness crab pot, WA Dungeness crab pot, and CA spot prawn pot to only the two strategic marine mammal stocks (i.e., Central America/Southern Mexico and Mainland Mexico stocks of humpback whales) and the Federal sablefish pot fishery.

The TRT is tentatively scheduled to meet November 3-6, 2025 in Vancouver, WA. Dr. Rebecca Lent, the Council's designee, will be attending the meeting and will provide a verbal update to the Council. The Council should discuss the update and any other comments from stakeholders and provide guidance, as appropriate, to the Council designee and staff.

Council Tasks:

Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see the [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| F.9 | Marine Mammal Take Reduction Team- Update | Jessi Waller |
| a. | Council Representative Report | Rebecca Lent |
| b. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| c. | Public Comment | |
| d. | Council Discussion and Guidance, as Appropriate | |