



## Requirements to Borrow from Gear Library

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation has launched a Gear Lending Library to provide California Dungeness crab fishermen access to innovative fishing gear to reduce the risk of whale entanglements. Fishermen testing gear under the Foundation's Experimental Fishing Permit will receive priority. Participation by fishermen in other fixed gear fisheries or projects will be considered based on gear and resource availability. The primary purpose of lending the gear is to assess the performance and feasibility of pop-up or on-demand gear in fishing conditions.

In addition to the above, the following are the MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS that participants and vessels must meet to borrow gear from the gear library:

1. A valid, active commercial fishing permit.
2. Access to a vessel 24/7 for gear deployment and retrieval, and the ability to grapple if necessary. Reasonable efforts must be made to recover lost gear.
3. A plan to mitigate potential gear conflicts.
4. Ability to demonstrate basic computer skills required to operate the tablet and software provided.
5. Willingness to coordinate with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation on gear modifications, as necessary.
6. Willingness to allow observers/engineers on the vessel when practical.
7. Willingness to undergo training or demonstrate proficiency using the system.
8. A commitment to return the gear in the same condition it was loaned, understanding that normal wear and tear may occur.
9. A commitment to return the gear to the Foundation at the conclusion of the trial period, and within one month of the loan, unless an extension is granted.
10. LIABILITY - Users assume full liability for any personal risks or property damage associated with use of the on-demand gear.
11. An understanding that data collected may be shared upon completion of testing, consistent with Item 4 under the data collection requirements below.

Additionally, vessels must possess the following SAFETY STANDARDS to participate in this research:

1. The vessel must be sound, seaworthy, and capable of operating at the planned research location.
2. A current USCG fishing vessel safety decal is required for vessels operating in federal waters.
3. The vessel must meet all safety, firefighting and lifesaving equipment requirements as found in applicable sections of Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 28.
4. The vessel must have personal floatation devices and survival craft for all persons on board, including visitors, in accordance with 46 CFR.
5. A navigational watch must be maintained at all times while the vessel is at sea.
6. The vessel must have an emergency electrical power source capable of supplying emergency loads for at least 3 hours, located in a space other than the engine room. Batteries of sufficient size and capacity may serve as an adequate source of emergency power.

When selecting participants and vessels, the Foundation maintains broad discretion to consider additional factors, such as communication, prior experience with research projects, cooperation, and collegiality. Fishermen with federal or state permit violations are likely to be excluded from participation.

#### Data Collection Requirements

Participants borrowing on-demand gear must agree to the following data collection terms:

1. Data must be collected on each haul during on-demand fishing operations.
2. Data must be recorded on Foundation-approved data sheets.
3. Data must be provided to the Foundation after each day of system use, unless otherwise agreed.
4. Data on the operation of the on-demand system will be considered public information. Personal information, such as the fishermen's name, vessel name, and fishing location will be redacted to the extent required by law. However, general location information (e.g., by port, state-designated management zones, offshore vs. inshore, etc.) is likely to be shared as permitted by law.

To express interest in borrowing gear from the Gear Library, please contact us at [gearlibrary@marinesanctuary.org](mailto:gearlibrary@marinesanctuary.org), or submit an [expression of interest form](#) online.