

# Coastal Crab Industry Meeting

August 17, 2023



# Proposed Agenda

3:00 pm Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting

3:15 pm Overview of Proposed Rule Changes

3:30 pm Coastal Shellfish Proposed Rules

- EM and Compliance Guide
- Gear Marking
- WA-tix
- Questions

4:30 pm Commission Schedule and Public Comment

5:00 pm Adjourn



# Proposed Rule Changes

## Coastal Dungeness Crab and Shellfish

- Installation and Use of Electronic Monitoring - New!
- Coastal Commercial Crab Logbook – Not Required with Operational EM
- Line Marking in Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery - Clarification
- Prohibit Line Marks or Colors Required in Another Fishery
- Standardize Crab and Shrimp Pot Buoy Colors
- Require Annual Registration of Commercial Crab Buoy Color Schemes
- Fish Receiving, Transportation Ticket, and Quick Reporting Revisions



# Proposed Rule Changes

## Other Fisheries

- Define a New Management Category for Non-spot Shrimp Species
- Puget Sound Commercial Pot Shrimp
- Shellfish Harvest Logs
- Buoy Tags in Puget Sound Commercial Dungeness Crab Fisheries
- Puget Sound Commercial Crab and Shrimp Fishery Boundary Designations
- Crab and Shrimp Buoys (Recreational)
- Limit Line in Shellfish Fisheries to Amount Needed (implements “Best Practices” in other pot fisheries)



# What is Electronic Monitoring?

## A Vessel Monitoring System:

- Determines vessel position
- Determines pot hauling activity with a hydraulic pressure sensor
- Transmits data to a service provider

## Why is it needed?

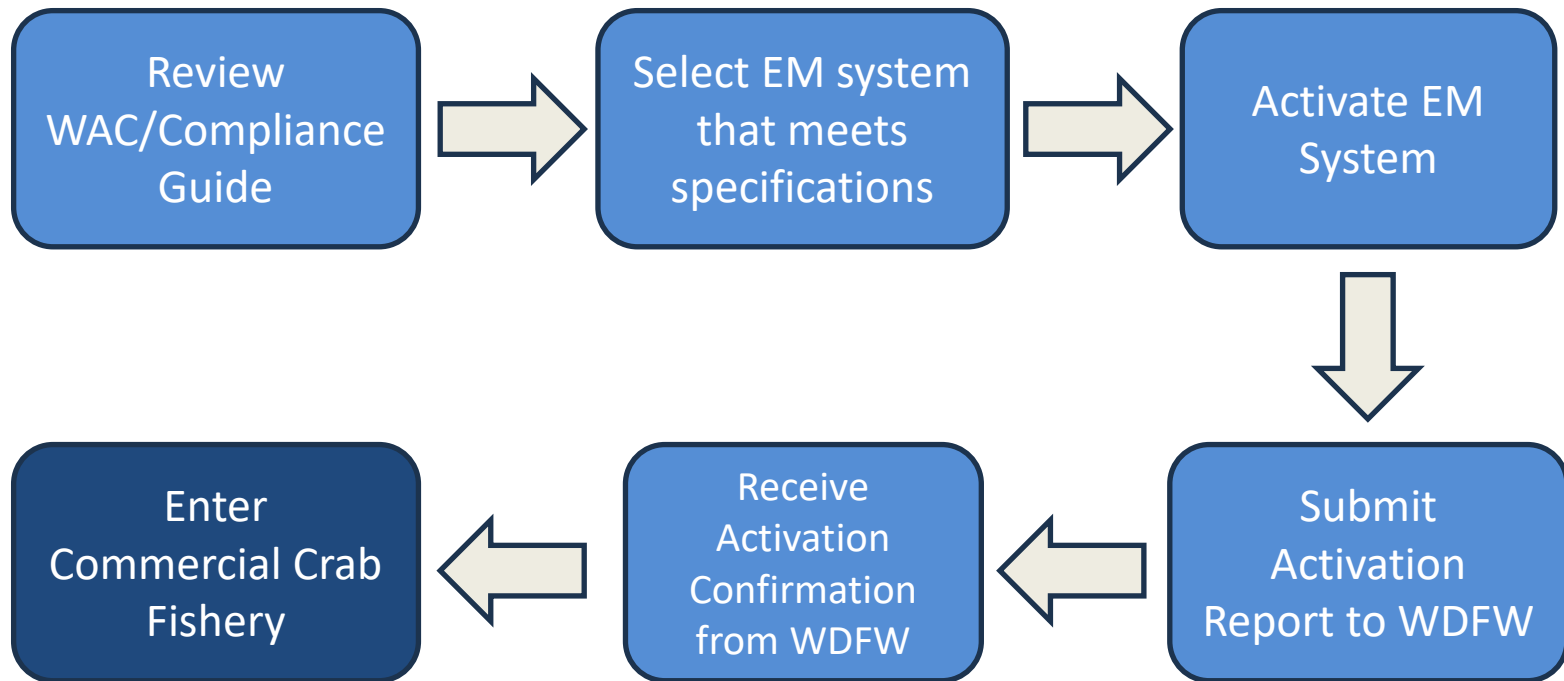
- Supports effective fishery management
- Enforcement
- Spatial data to understand whale/fishery co-occurrence

## Who is required to have it?

- All vessels participating in the Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery as defined by WAC 220-340-400



# Preseason EM Setup Procedure



# EM System Requirements

## **The EM system must:**

- Record vessel position at least once per minute
- Record hydraulic pressure at least once every 10 seconds
- Transmit data to PSMFC at least once per hour
- Be able to store data when out of coverage and transmit when coverage is restored
- Feedback mechanism



# EM Installation Requirements

## Hydraulic Pressure Sensor

**Current:** Must be installed between the crab block and the first fitting from the crab block on the main line of a vessel that controls it such that recorded pressure readings are indicative of pot hauling activity

**Alternative:** Must be installed on the main high pressure supply line between the hydraulic pump and the crab block of a vessel that controls it such that recorded pressure readings show pressure increases during pot hauling activity

## Continuously Powered

## Available for Inspection






# EM Reporting Requirements Activation Report

## Needed to:

- Determine if the system is active
- Link the EM system to an active license

## Must be submitted, when:

- Annually before each season start
- An EM system is activated following reinstallation
- There is a change in service provider
- There is a change to any information required in the activation report (vessel, license, EM system ID)
- After operating under a temporary EM exemption permit or submitting a departure report

  
State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628

**WASHINGTON COASTAL CRAB ELECTRONIC MONITORING ACTIVATION REPORT**

Under the authority of WAC 220-XXX-XXX, all vessels intending to participate in the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery must have an approved electronic monitoring device installed prior to the start of the fishery. All devices must follow the specifications outlined in WAC 220-XXX-XXX and the EM Compliance Guide. A list of EM system providers, provider contact information, and the EM compliance guide can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal>

Please complete, sign, and return this form once an approved device has been installed on your vessel or anytime changes are made to the following information:

LICENSE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

VESSEL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM PROVIDER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

ELECTRONIC MONITORING DEVICE IDENTIFIER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above electronic monitoring device is installed and properly functioning to the best of my knowledge.

Vessel Owner/Primary Operator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

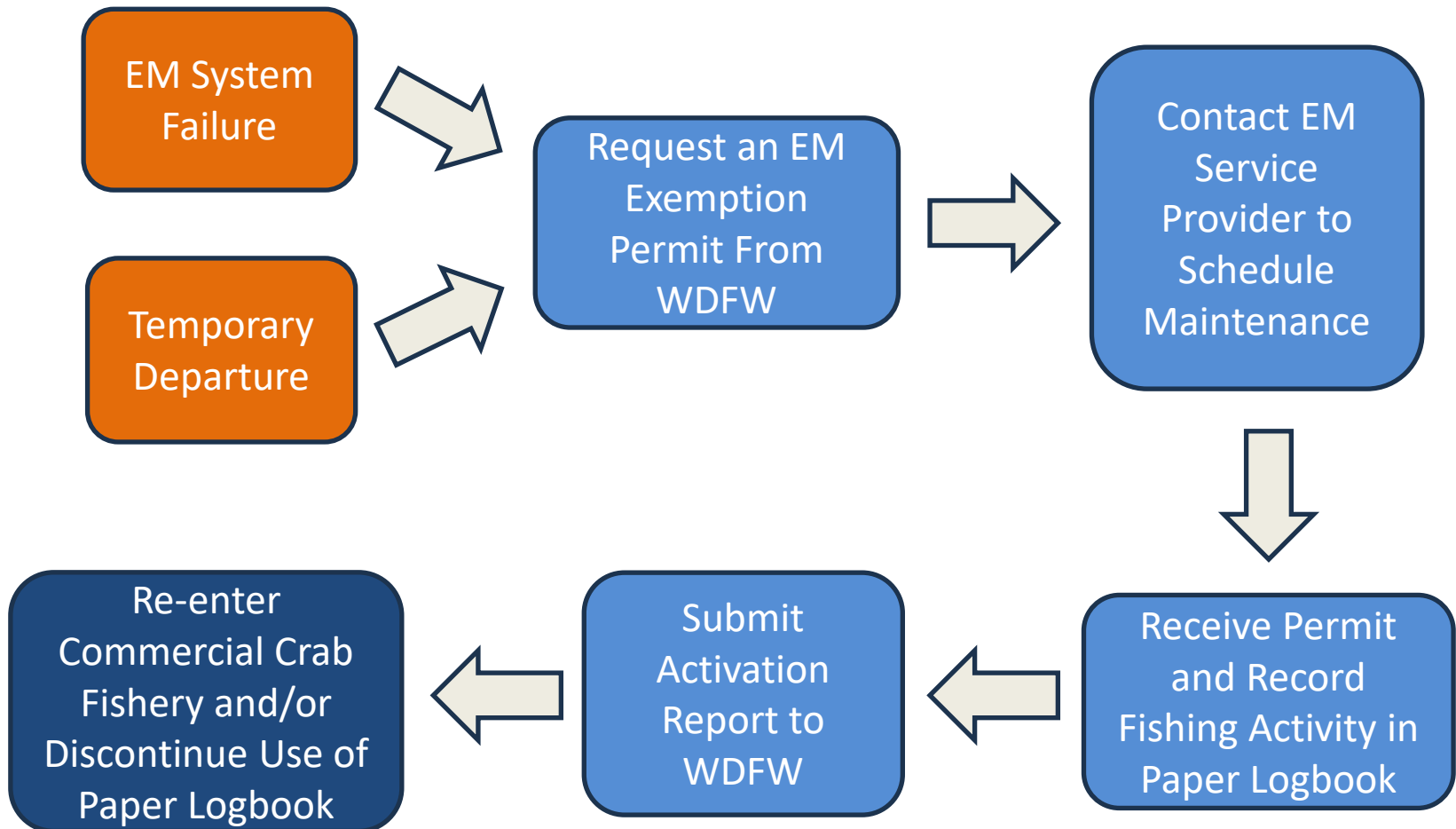
Vessel Owner/Primary Operator Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email reports to:  
[Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov)

Mail reports to:  
WDFW EM Program Team  
48 Devonshire Rd, Montesano WA 98563



# In-season EM Exemptions



## EM Reporting Requirements

# Temporary Exemption Permits

### Needed when:

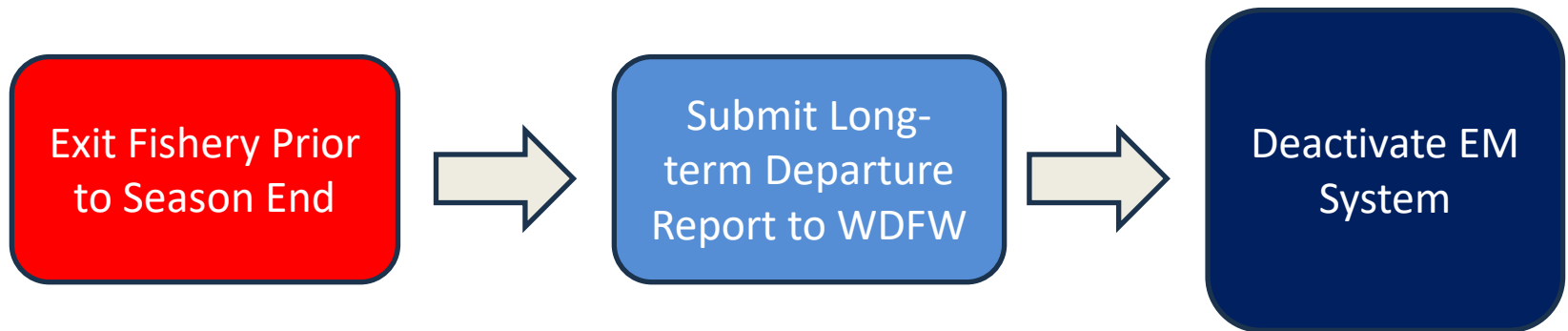
- There is an interruption to the EM system and a vessel is participating in the fishery, i.e., has gear in the water and intends to resume fishing

### Types of Permits:

- **System Failure** - The EM system is not working properly
- **Haul Out** - The vessel will be out of the water and the system will need to be disconnected from power
- **Emergency** - Emergency (fire, flooding, etc.) renders the EM system inoperable



# In-season EM Exemptions



Must submit an **Activation Report** to resume commercial crab fishing



## EM Reporting Requirements

# Long-term Departure Report

A notification in writing (email, text) to EM Team that you are no longer participating in the fishery

### Required when:

- There is an interruption to the EM system and a vessel does not intend to keep fishing
- A vessel will no longer be participating in the fishery prior to the season end

Must submit an activation report to resume fishing



# EM Compliance Guide

Provides details to comply with proposed rules:

- What components are needed
- How to install and ensure the EM system is operational
- How to request and submit a report or permit
- Who to contact



# **ELECTRONIC MONITORING QUESTIONS**

# Coastal Shellfish Proposed Rule Changes

# Coastal Commercial Crab Logbook

- Removes the requirement to submit logbooks with operational EM system
- Logbooks still required if operating under an EM exemption permit





# Coastal Shellfish Proposed Rule Changes

## Gear Marking

### Line Marking in Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery

- Clarifies that line marking must be a continuous 12 inches of red

### Prohibit Line Marks or Colors Required in Another Fishery

- Prohibits using line marks in WA fixed gear fisheries that are required for other state or federal fisheries

### Standardize Crab and Shrimp Pot Buoy Colors

- Requires commercial crab buoys must not be red and white unless 30 percent of the buoy is marked in additional color(s)



# Coastal Shellfish Proposed Rule Changes

## Gear Marking

### Require Annual Registration of Commercial Crab Buoy Color Schemes

- Requires fishers to complete buoy registration annually using the WDFW online registration form



## Coastal Shellfish Proposed Rule Changes

# WAtix Electronic Fish Ticket Reporting

## Fish Receiving, Transportation Ticket, and Quick Reporting Revisions

- Describes when and where electronic fish tickets must be submitted to the department
- Includes provisions for when access to cellular broadband is not immediately available when the fish ticket is completed
- Improves transportation ticket requirements



# Small Business Economic Impact Statement “SBEIS”

The rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses

- WDFW determined the rule requirement of EM is the only element that would result in costs to businesses
- Likely cost of compliance ranges from \$1830-2045
- Analysis found the rule would have a disproportionate cost impact on small businesses

## Mitigation options

Removing logbook requirements

Allow flexibility in type of EM unit purchased

Coordinate purchases to take advantage of bulk pricing

Allow fishers to use paper logbooks in cases of EM system failure



# Potential Funding for EM

WDFW is working with partners to explore funding to offset the cost of EM systems

## Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

- Waiting for final approval from NOAA
- If approved would be available for start of upcoming season
- Likely to support cost of systems for all fishery participants
- Vessel operators would still be responsible for costs associated with installing the system and activating a data plan

## Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant

- Competitive grant application – pre-proposal submitted
- If approved, funds would allow for reimbursement of EM system costs



# Rulemaking Timeline

July  
26

Proposed Rule  
Filed

Public  
Comment  
through  
October 2

September 28-30

WDFW Commission  
Meeting  
Yakima, WA

Briefing and Public  
Comment

October  
26-28

WDFW  
Commission  
Meeting\*  
Olympia, WA

Commission  
Decision

Rule Effective

31 days  
following  
adoption  
except EM  
requirement  
January 1, 2024



# Proposed Rule Changes

Link to Proposed Rule Changes:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/regulations/filings/2023/wsr-23-16-050.pdf>

Link to compliance guide:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/regulations/filings/2023/wsr-23-16-050-attachment-2.pdf>

Link to Small Business Impact Statement:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/regulations/filings/2023/wsr-23-16-050-attachment-1.pdf>



# Public Comment

Comments can be made at:

<https://publicinput.com/crab-and-shellfish-rulemaking>

Or emailed to:

[Crab-and-shellfish-rulemaking@publicinput.com](mailto:Crab-and-shellfish-rulemaking@publicinput.com)

Or by leaving a voicemail message at:

855-925-2801 and entering project code 2872

A public hearing will be held September 28-30, 2023 at 8:00am in person and online via Zoom Webinar for information visit:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings/2023>

**Comments will be accepted until the close of the comment period on October 2, 2023**





# Questions

