

# Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Policy Update

Lorna Wargo, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Coordinator  
Heather Hall, Region 6 Director

August 8, 2024



# Introduction

- Background
- Proposed Approach
- Draft Language
- Timeline



WDFW Photo

# Background – What brought us here today

Current coastal Dungeness crab policy, C-3604, adopted by Commission in 1999

- Has guided Department actions for 25 years
- Has served us well but,
- Updates are needed

# Proposed Approach

Update policy to:

- Reorganize format
- Include commitment to reduce marine life entanglement risks pursuant to ESA and MMPA
- Address recreational crab fishery monitoring needs
- Support work to develop climate-resilient measures

# Highlights – How do the versions compare?

Current	Proposed
Structure: Bullet list of goals and policies	Structure: Purpose statement and list of policy guidelines
Protect crab resource and habitat	Protect crab resource and habitat
Manage fishery with tribal co-managers	Manage fishery with tribal co-managers
Health and Safety	Health and Safety
Fairly distribute commercial opportunity and impacts, "Even-flow"	Fairly distribute commercial opportunity and impacts, "Even-flow"
Involve commercial representatives	Involve commercial/recreational fishing representatives
Maximize the economic benefit of the resource and manage the fishery to primarily benefit the commercial fishery	Optimize economic returns from the Dungeness crab resource for the commercial sector while also providing recreational opportunities
	Reduce entanglement risks
	Address climate-resiliency

# Public Process: July – December 2024

- Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board Meeting, July 22
- F&W Commission – Fish Committee briefing
- Letter to all Coastal Dungeness Crab license holders, mid-August
- Virtual Townhall, August 28
- Commission Meetings, September and October
- Share outcome in annual Coastal Dungeness Crab Newsletter, December



WDFW Photo



# Questions?

Request this information in an alternative format or language at [wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation](https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation), 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or [CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov).