

# Commercial Dungeness Crab Rules – Coastal Comprehensive Line Marking Rules

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Department of  
**FISH &  
WILDLIFE**

# Presentation Outline

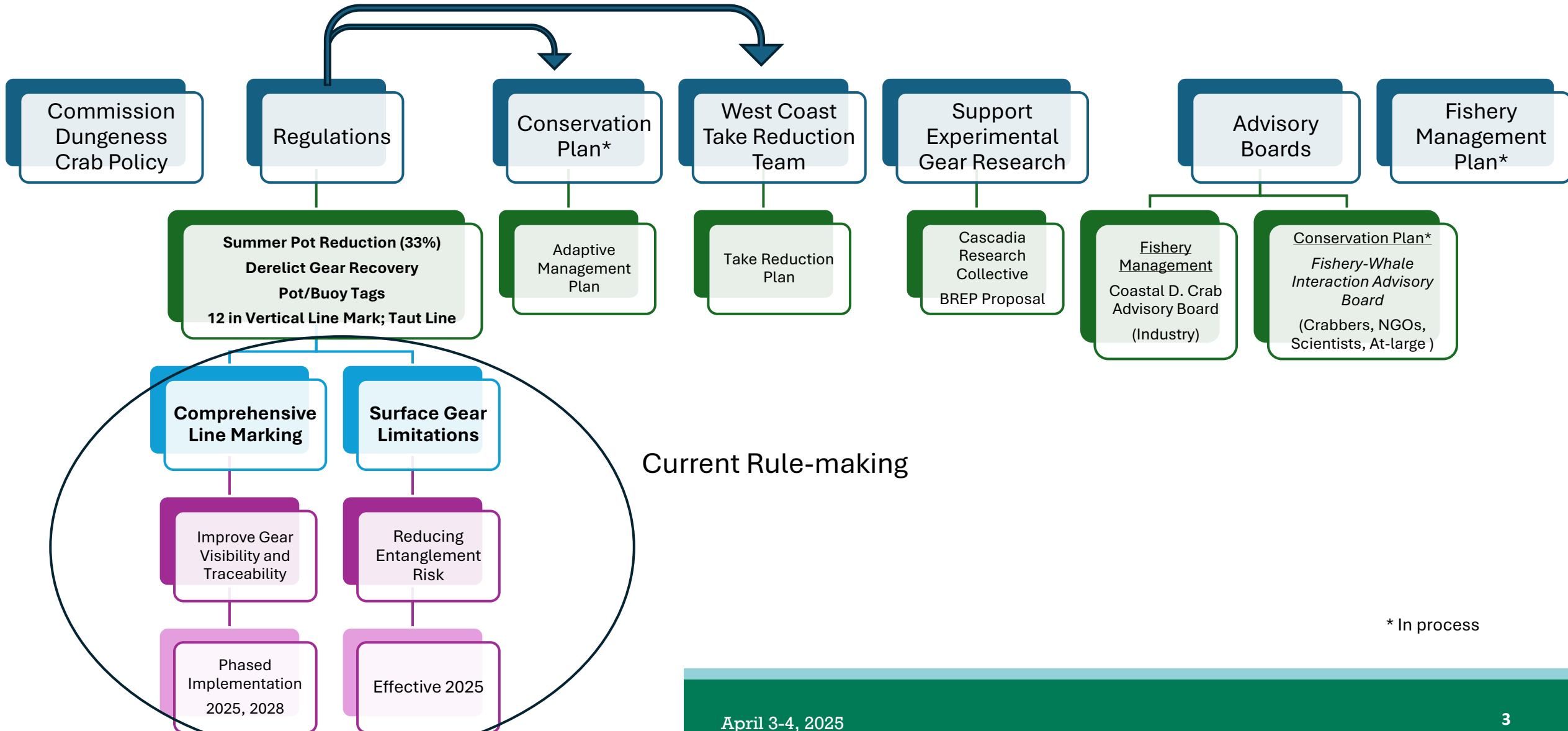
Overview of Rule Making Action

Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery - Whale Interaction  
Comprehensive Strategy

Proposed rule changes

- Comprehensive Line Marking; Surface Gear Limitations
- Public comment
- Additional Recommended Changes to WAC 220-340-430

# Comprehensive Strategy



\* In process



# Proposed rule amendments WAC 220-340-430

Proposed rule

# Coastal and Puget Sound Dungeness Crab

Improve rule clarity

Transfer compliance responsibility from license holder to vessel operator actively fishing under the license [5(d), 6(a), 5(d)(i)]

Prohibit marking or color schemes used by other fisheries to avoid cross-jurisdictional overlap [6b]



Proposed rule

# Coastal Dungeness Crab

Require comprehensive line marking on all gear  
[6c]

Limit the amount of surface gear allowed to  
reduce the risk of entanglements [7]

Prohibit the registration and use of a buoy brand  
required by a treaty tribal fishery [5(d)(v)]



Red and black manufactured line  
WA Coastal Dungeness Crab

## Proposed Rule

# Public Comment

## Line marking

- Support from industry and NGOs for the proposed regulations
- Industry opposition to line marking
- Request to require line marking immediately for the all line and require manufactured line
- Cost estimated in the CR-102 are underestimates

## Surface gear limitations

- Length limit of 36 ft creates a safety risk for larger vessels
- Additional line may be present on the surface despite limits – slack vertical line

## Other

- The Commission and agency should do more to protect whales
- Management actions need to consider the status and composition of whale populations at risk
- On-demand pop-up gear use in the fishery, support and opposition



# Staff proposed changes from the CR-102 WAC



Staff proposed

## Changes to WAC 220-340-430

**Better define** re: operator or alternate operator, as outlined in RCW 77.65.130

**Consistent terminology** re: buoy color “scheme”

**Exemption permit:** surface line length limitation exemption permit for safety risk



**Questions?**



# Draft Motion Language

# Draft motion language

I move that the Commission adopt WAC 220-340-430  
Commercial crab fishery – Gear requirements as presented by  
staff.



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