

Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board Meeting

April 18, 2024

3:00 pm



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Proposed Agenda

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
3:00 – 3:05 PM	Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting	Heather Hall
3:05 – 3:35 PM	Tri-State Pre-Season Test Fishery Protocol	Matt George
3:35 – 4:15 PM	Line Marking	Megan Hintz
4:15 – 4:30 PM	Overcapitalization	Heather Hall
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Discussion, Adjourn	Heather Hall





Tri-State Pre-Season Test Fishery Protocol (Decision)

Tri-State Pre-Season Test Protocol

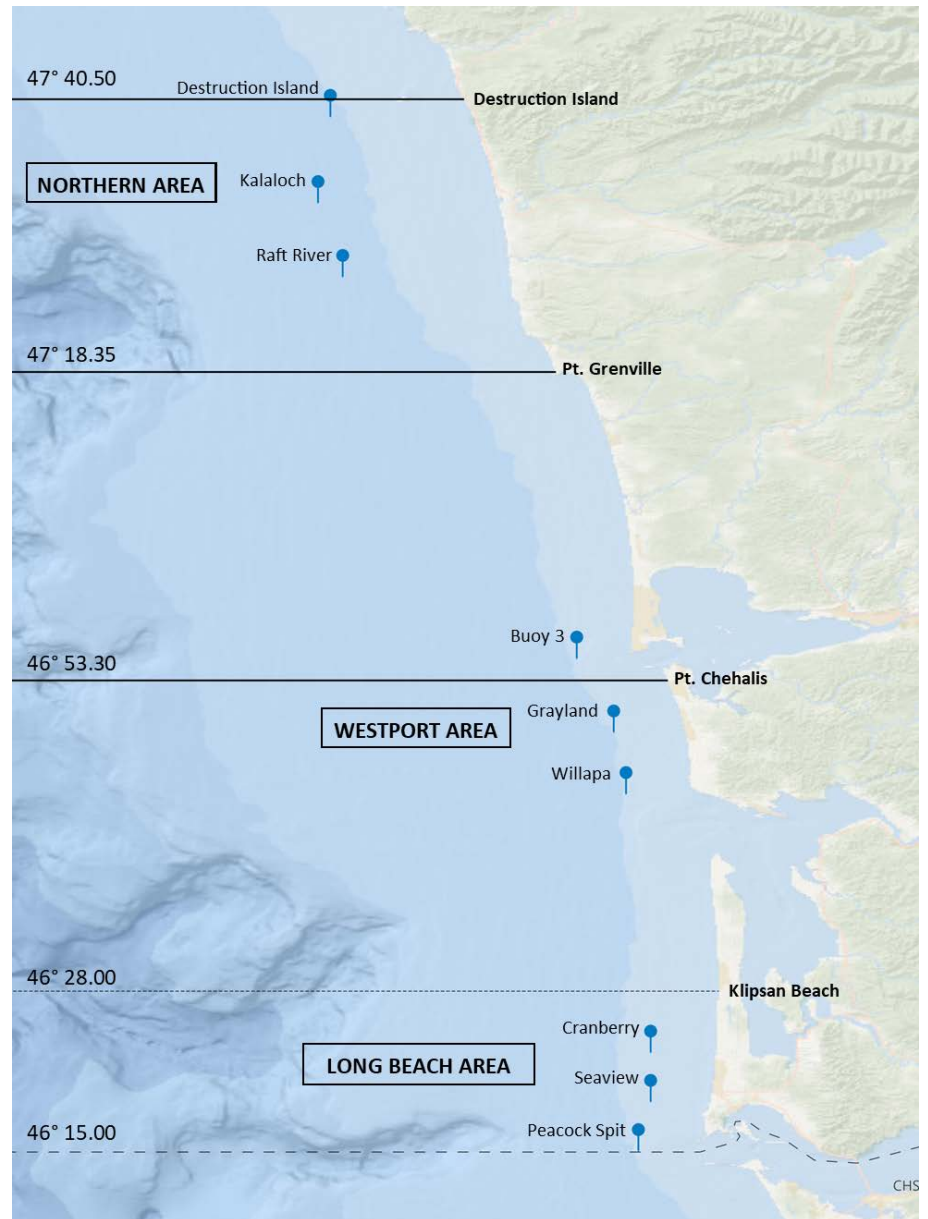
Three Test Fishery stations:

1. Northern Area
2. Westport
3. Long Beach

Six pots deployed at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms for 24 hours

Meat recovery threshold: 23%

Test fails if all crab from an area is less than 300 lbs



Tri-State Pre-Season Test Protocol

Offload/Pick-out Procedure:

1. Crab are weighed 30 minutes after offload (**boat weight**).
2. Crab backed and cooked in fresh water for 12 minutes.
3. Crab chilled in cold water and held in cold storage for more than 2 hours and less than 24 hours.
4. Crab meat will be picked (including tips).
5. Crab meat will be brined in a 90% solution, cleaned, rinsed, drained, pressed, and weighed (**packed weight**).

$$\textit{Meat Pickout Percentage} = \frac{\textit{Packed Weight}}{\textit{Boat Weight}}$$



Tri-State Pre-Season Test Protocol

Meat Pick-out Percentage:

1. North of Cascade Head: 23%
(no rounding)
2. South of Cascade Head: 24%
(no rounding)



Tri-State Pre-Season Test Protocol

Test	Conduct test no later than	Outcome if Pass	Outcome if Fail
Early Test (optional)	Oct 31	First test optional	Dec 1, retest
First Round	Nov 22	Dec 1	Dec 16, retest
Second Round	Dec 7	Dec 16	Dec 31, retest
Third Round	Dec 22	All Pass: Dec 31 All above 23%: Jan 15 Threat (e.g. biotoxins): Jan 15 Fail: Feb 1	
Fourth Round (optional)	Jan 7	Jan 15	Feb 1



Tri-State Pre-Season Test Protocol

Proposed Protocol Changes by ODFW:

1. Requested a list of alternatives for meat criteria
2. Define minimum soak time in the event that 24 hours is not possible. What is the minimum that industry will trust?
3. Want more clarity when it comes storing cooked crab overnight.
 - a) Cold storage for more than 2 hours and less than 24 hours.
4. Formalize process of noting deviations from standard testing procedure (e.g., not able to soak pots for 24 hrs).
5. Include whale delays in fair start matrix?



Tri-State Pre-Season Test Protocol

Proposed Protocol Changes by WDFW:

1. Remove the WA Northern Testing Station.
2. Move Oregon's Astoria test station north.
 - a) Current Astoria test is 15 miles south of border.
 - b) No language currently prevents Oregon from opening if the Astoria test passes and Long Beach fails.
 - c) Prevent line being drawn at border.
1. Allow test fishing vessel to retain crab in hold overnight.
 - a) Weather can delay when crab is collected, delaying vessel return until the evening.
 - b) Processing facilities would prefer not to process the crab that night.





Line Marking (Discussion)

Gear marking

- ~50 percent of whale entanglements can't be attributed to a specific gear type or fishery
- Entanglement report photos are often taken under poor conditions; difficult to identify gear/fishery.
- Gear marking is critical to entanglement monitoring and enables **positive** (e.g., it is WA coastal D. crab) and **negative** (e.g., confirm it's not WA coastal D. crab) fishery attribution
- Knowing which fishery is associated with an entanglement is important to understanding how to reduce entanglement risk
- Requirement for incidental take permit



West Coast Fisheries

Currently pursuing line marking...

Federal

- Groundfish Sablefish Pot & Longline Gear
- State (crab)
 - CA Dungeness crab
 - OR Dungeness crab
 - WA coastal Dungeness crab (updating)



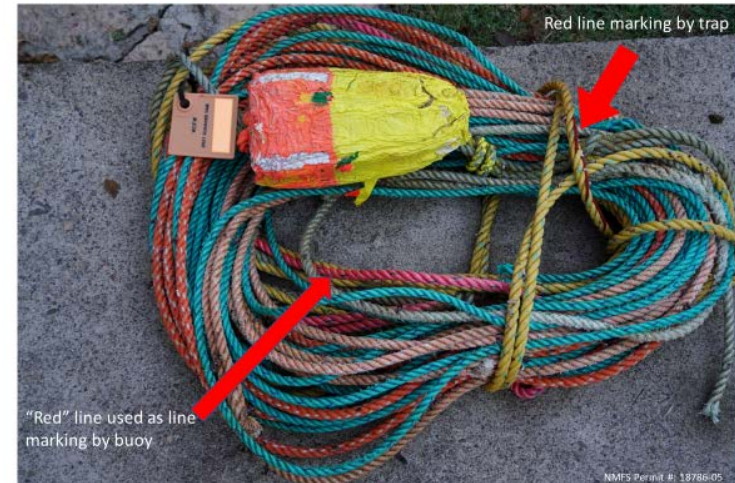
Goals of comprehensive line marking

- Line marking easily visible from reported entanglement photos and videos
 - Top and upper portion of gear is more frequently visible
- Negative attribution

NMFS guidance

- Multiple marks
- More and larger marks than current WA requirement
- Top and upper portion of gear is most frequently visible
- Marking at least every few fathoms, especially in the top half of line
- ~ 30% of line marked

Washington line marking documented on gear recovered from an entangled whale



Federal groundfish (Sablefish)

Preliminary Council recommendations:

- No surface line marking, but require buoy tags on every buoy
- Top 20 fathoms of vertical line
- Manufactured line, no temporary marks
- No transition time, but subject to availability

Line marking:

- Colors of manufactured line TBD
- Different markings for pot/trap and bottom longline gear

Objective:

- Adequate gear marking for negative attribution



OR Dungeness Crab

Most recent draft rule language

- Vertical line: top 15 fathoms of line
- Surface line: all
- Manufactured line
- Yellow (state) and black (fishery)
- Carve out for 5 fathoms of line closest to the pot to be any color if the total length of line fished is less than 20 fathoms



Oregon manufactured line

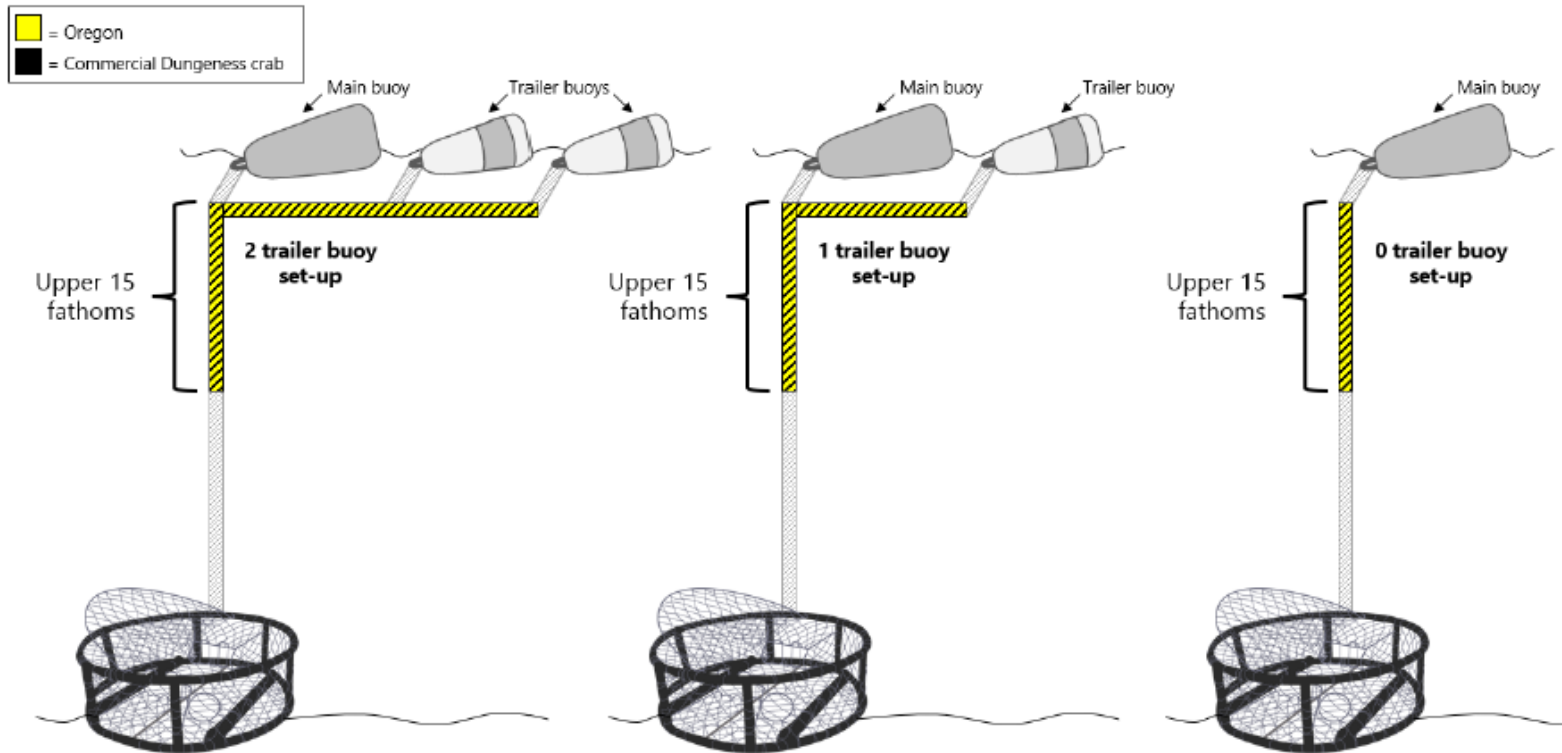
Considering temporary marks

- Comprehensive and allowed indefinitely
- Less comprehensive, but only allowed during transition



OR Dungeness Crab

Draft Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal



When less than 20 fathoms of main line is used, no more than 5 fathoms of the main line closest to the crab pot may be any color and the remaining main line must be the manufactured yellow and black bi-colored line.



CA Dungeness Crab

Draft regulation out for public comment:

- Dual-colored lines of purple and black
 - Manufactured line
 - Painted in alternating solid color mark of 6-12 inches that cover the entire circumference of the line
- Vertical line: Top 15 fathoms
 - If fishing in 5-20 fathoms, the bottom 5 fathoms can be any color
 - If fishing in 5 fathoms or less, entire line needs to be marked
- Surface gear: all surface gear must be continuously marked



California manufactured line



WA Drafting new line marking regulations

Plan:

- **Red and black**
- Surface gear and top portion of vertical line

Feedback from industry:

- Temporary marks
- Common top shot length
- Carve outs for fishing in less than 20 fathoms (or similar threshold)
- Needs for easy integration



Washington manufactured line



WA Next steps

- Small workshops with fleet participants to gather information
 - Talk with crabbers that fish different strategies
 - Offshore, bay fishers, big boats, Ilwaco, Westport, dual permit holders, participation in other fisheries with gear marking, etc.
 - Improve my understanding of gear and deployment strategies to help develop rule language
 - technical information, loopholes, phased implementation
- When would be a good time to hold workshops?



Line marking timeline

Washington

Develop rule language – Summer 2024

Rule to Fish Commission - Early 2025

Implementation – TBD

Oregon

Initial draft rule – July 2023 (pulled)

Industry feedback – Now

Final rule – TBD

Implementation – TBD

California

Draft rule out for public comment – Now

Surface gear marking – November 2025

Vertical line marking – November 2028





Overcapitalization (Discussion)

Overcapitalization

Discussion: Is there interest in considering additional effort reduction measures in the D. crab fishery?

1. Reduced pot limit
 - a) Permanent or after a certain point in the season (e.g., May 1)
 - b) Coastwide or State

2. License buyback
 - a) Pot stacking
 - b) Coastwide or State specific

3. Other?



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION