



Exhibit B: Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery and Experimental Fishing Gear Permit Regulations

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**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**





Issue 1: Five-year evaluation of entanglement risk reduction measures



Key vertical line reduction measures

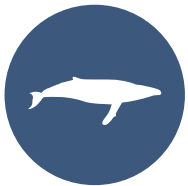


Late-season measures, starting May 1

20% pot limit reduction

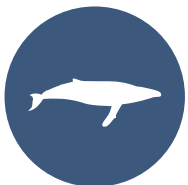
40-fathom depth restriction

Requirement for additional late-season tag



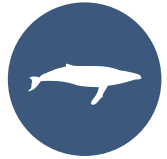
Elimination of standard replacement tag allowance

Up to 10% of pot limit



Elimination of two-week post-season gear clean-up period

Performance metrics



Entanglement risk

Overall late-season line-days

Late-season fishery effort outside
40 fm



Fishery impacts

Active permits

Landings

Ex-vessel value

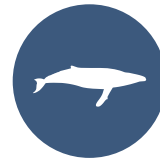
By vessel length, pot limit tier,
port

Supplemental information



Compliance

Enforcement actions taken



Confirmed entanglements

Number and species

Est. gear set timing, depth, region



Entanglement risk reduced by ~25%

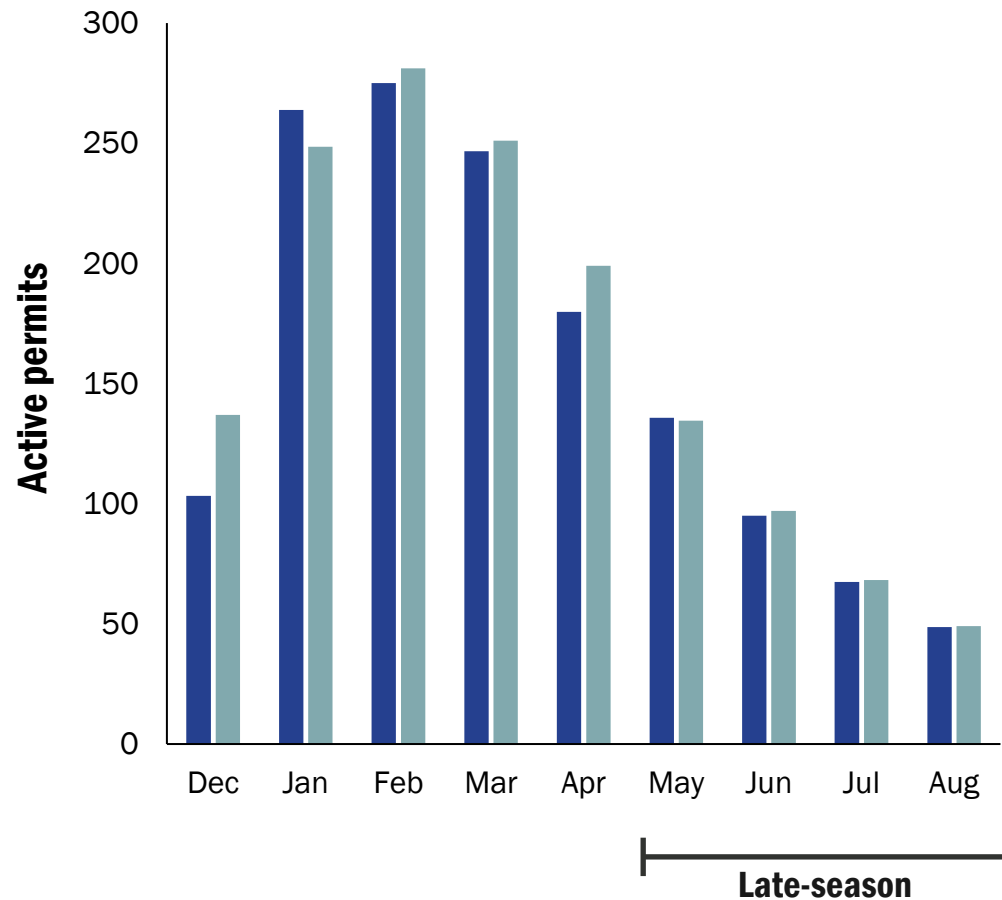
Late-season fishery effort moved inside 40 fm (May-Aug)

	Total line-days	Line-day change	% change
Average pre-implementation (2012-13 – 2019-20)	2,758,024		
2020-21	1,808,320	-949,704	-34.4
2021-22	1,767,280	-990,744	-35.9
2022-23	3,175,120	+417,097	+15.1
2023-24	2,027,920	-730,104	-26.5
2024-25	1,623,280	-1,134,744	-41.1
Average post-implementation (2020-21 – 2024-25)	2,080,384	-677,640	-24.6

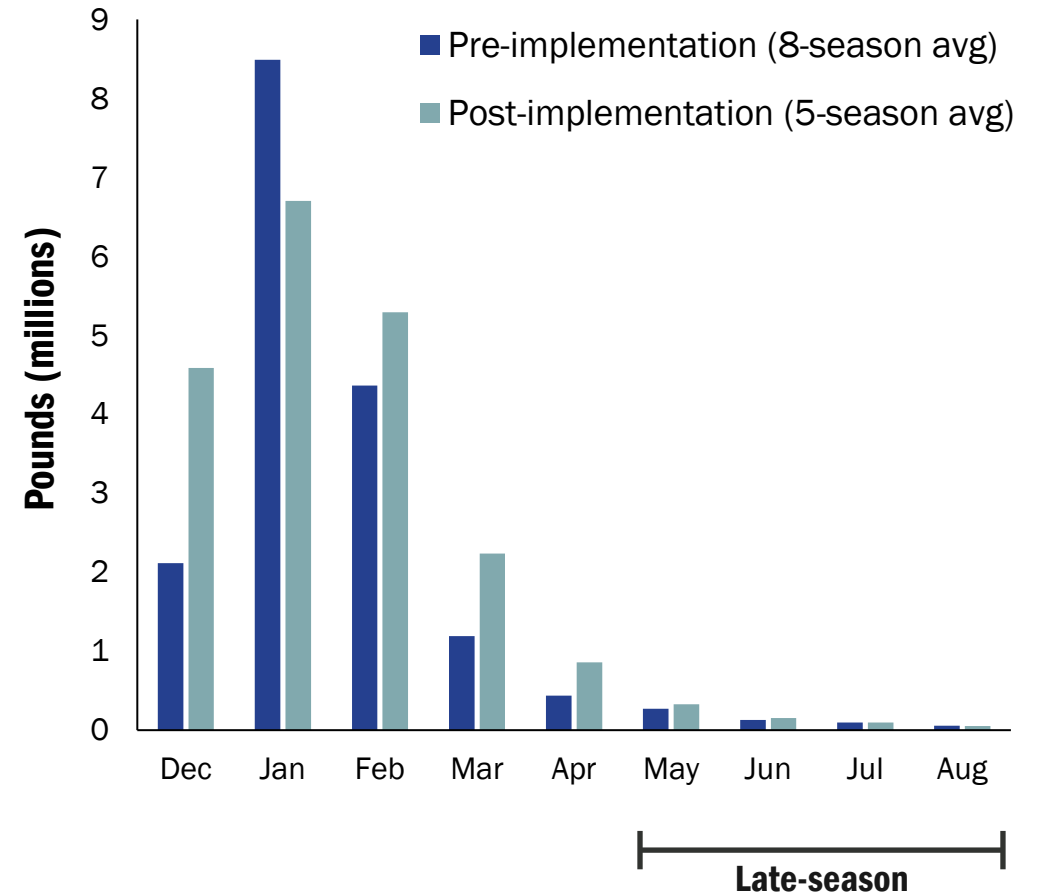


Fishery impacts are minimal

Average monthly active permits



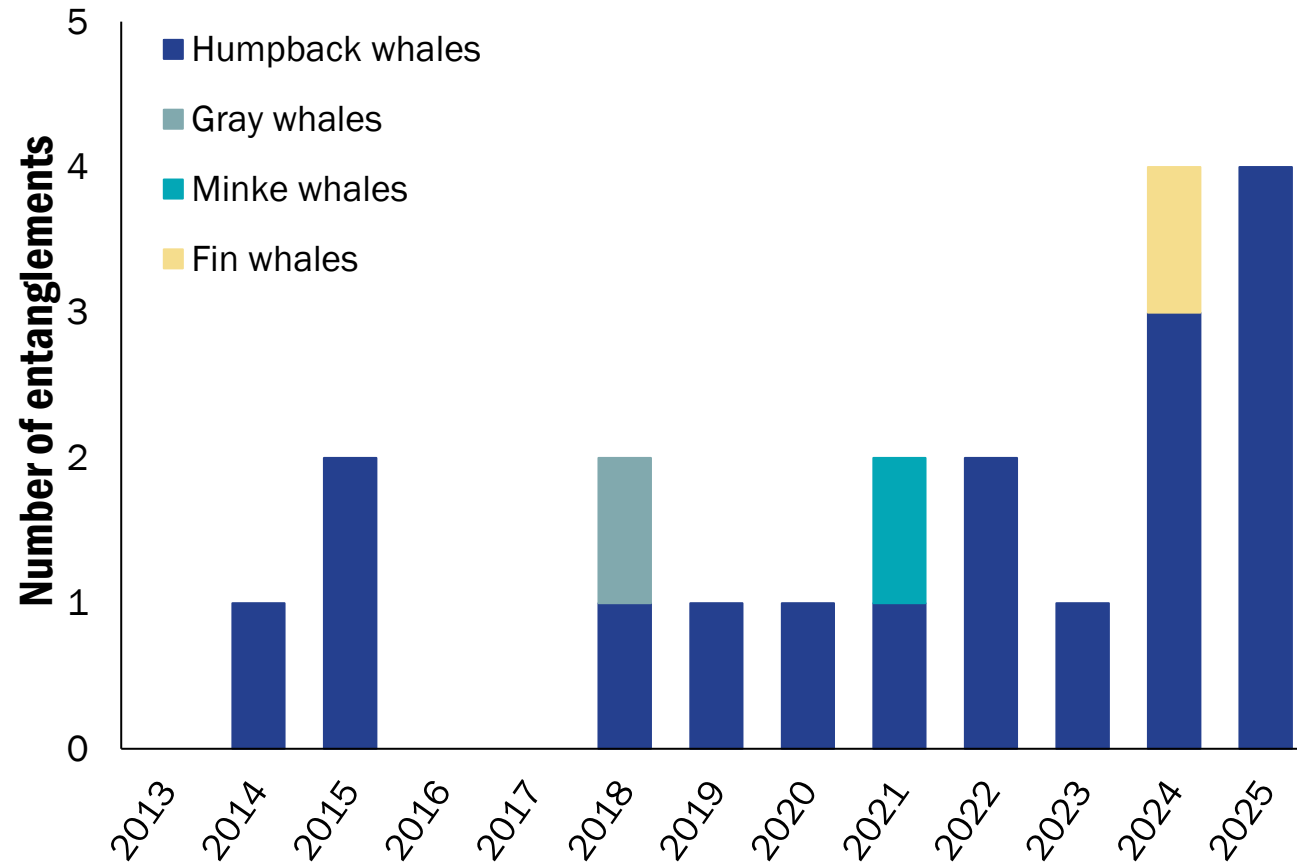
Average monthly pounds landed





Confirmed entanglements*

Oregon commercial crab gear



- Humpback entanglements have increased, likely due to:
 - Coastwide humpback whale population growth
 - Improved reporting and documentation
 - Changing ocean conditions
- Four cases suspected to involve derelict gear (reported in 2015, 2021, and two in 2025)
- No late-season tags present

*Entanglements attributed to the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishery by NMFS

Evaluation conclusions



Entanglement risk reduction

Late-season risk has been reduced as intended



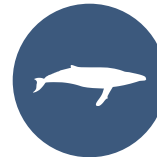
Compliance

Compliance with late-season measures has been good overall, but challenges exist



Fishery impacts

Little impact to overall fishery participation/landings/value, but permit-level gains and losses



Confirmed entanglements

Humpback entanglements in OR crab gear* have been elevated

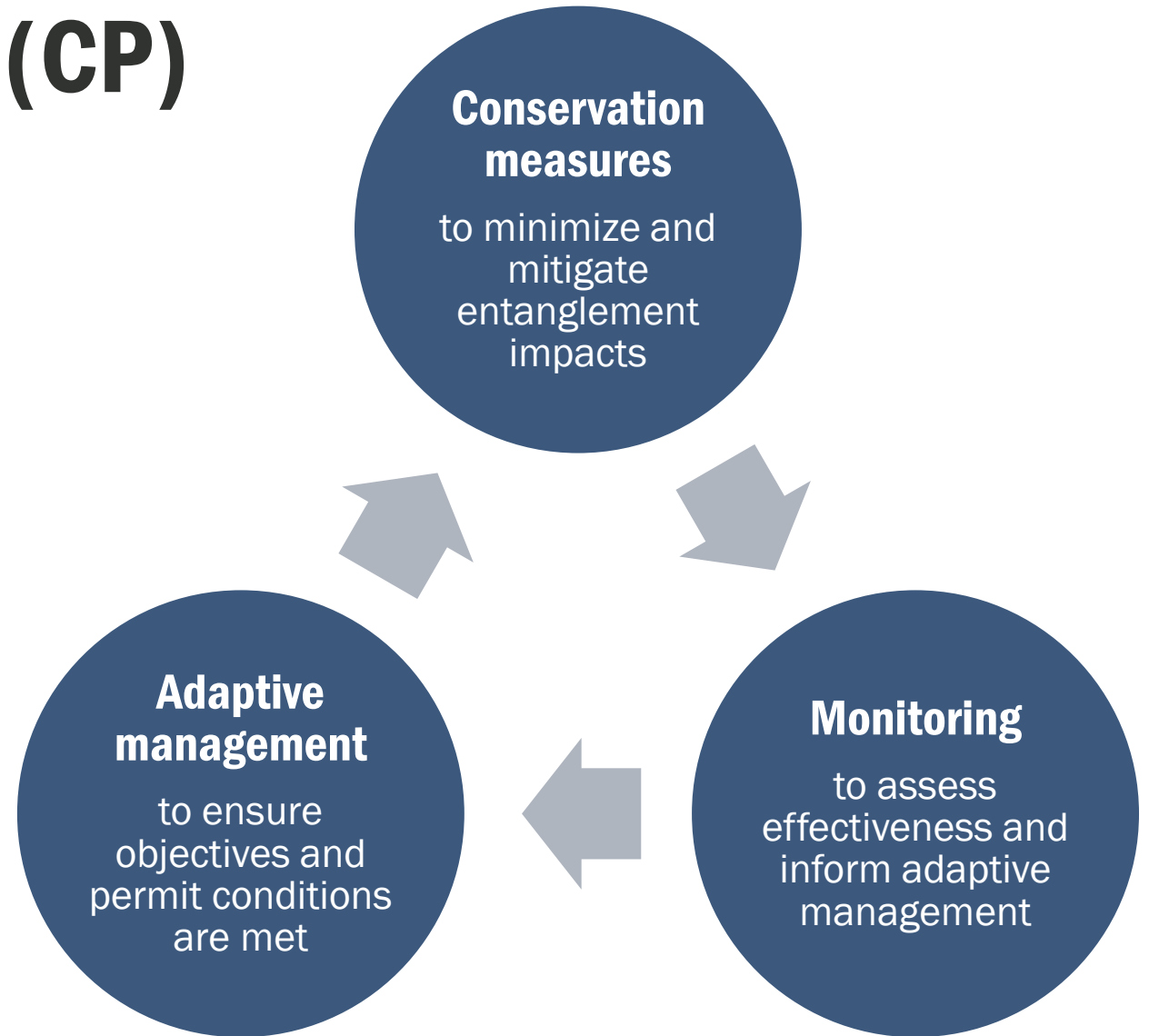
Proposed Conservation Plan includes adaptive management to keep entanglements below authorized take

*Entanglements attributed to the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab fishery by NMFS

Conservation plan (CP) strategy

NOAA Fisheries will determine and authorize allowable take

The CP will guide actions to remain below take limits





Rulemaking

- Electronic monitoring
- Experimental fishing gear permits
- Surface gear housekeeping



Public involvement



Advisory committees

Oregon Entanglement Advisory Committee

Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee

Newport (and online), April 2026



Industry public meetings

Astoria, Newport, Coos Bay (and online),

May 2026



Pop-up gear learning exchange

Industry, managers, enforcement,
conservation groups, technology developers

Astoria, August 2025



Other communications

Annual crab newsletter

Commission reports

Phone, email, in-person conversations



Issue 2: Electronic vessel monitoring requirement

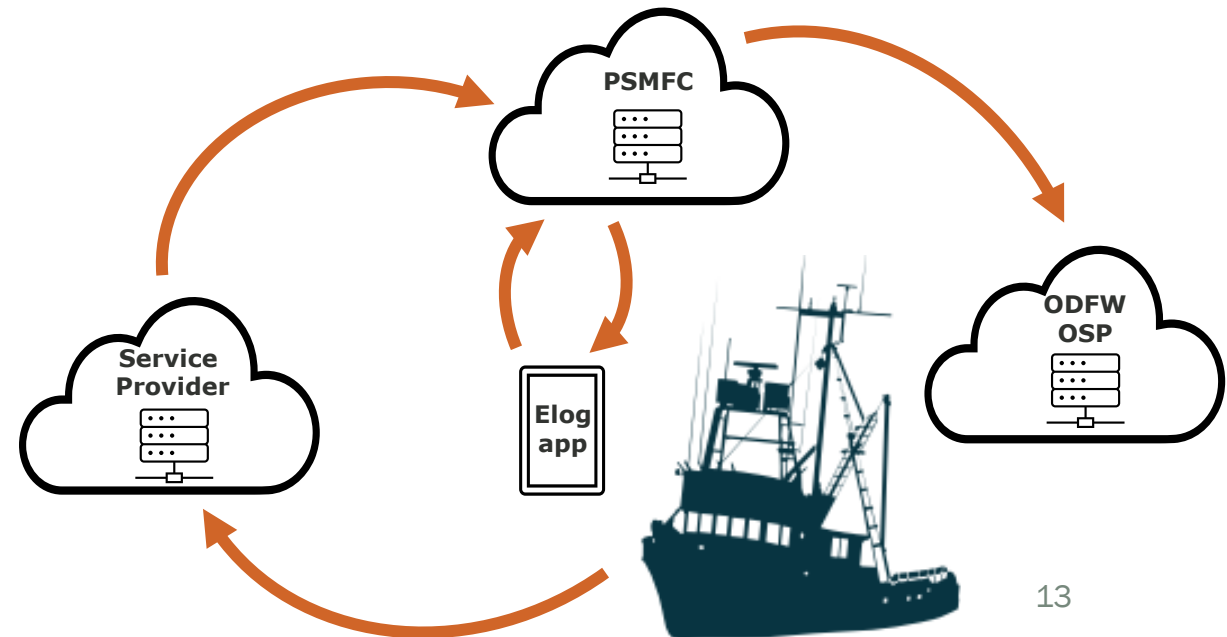


Vessel monitoring

What is Electronic Monitoring (EM)?

- EM is a vessel monitoring system that automatically tracks a vessel's position.
- Each pot retrieval is recorded using a hydraulic pressure sensor.
- All data is sent to an EM service provider through cellular network.

**No video camera or
observer requirements**



Vessel monitoring

EM is a key CP monitoring measure to:

- Improve understanding of overlap between the crab fishery and whales.
- Inform effectiveness and compliance with entanglement mitigation measures.

Other EM benefits

- Streamline data collection to track fishery reference points closer to real-time.
- Strengthen crab traceability regulations.
- Enforce season opening provisions, area closures, pot theft, crab theft, etc.



EM improves the timeliness of location data, but it can't provide key information that comes from logbooks.

Vessel monitoring

Proposed rule:

- EM required for all commercial ocean Dungeness crab vessels by **February 1, 2027**.
- VMS must record vessel location every 60 seconds.
- Hydraulic sensor must record pressure data every 10 seconds.
- EM service provider must upload data to the PSFMC data dashboard.
- Waivers available if equipment malfunctions.

EM cost and reimbursement:

- Reimbursement program to fund initial purchase of VMS units and hydraulic pressure sensors.
- Service subscription needed.



FishVue LIME:
archipelago.ca



Viatrix Boat Command:
boatcommand.com



Issue 3: Experimental Fishing Gear Permits (EFGPs)



Photo: Chris Peterson, Action Works
Photography

Alternative gear to reduce entanglement risk

There is significant interest in exploring alternative gear in the crab fishery, but testing off Oregon is needed.

- How does it perform in conditions off Oregon?
- Can it be safely fished?
- Can gear conflicts be avoided?
- Can ODFW effectively manage it?
- Can OSP effectively enforce compliance with closed areas, closed seasons, pot limits, and gear marking requirements?



Experimental Fishing Gear Permits (EFGPs)

Controlled test of longline and pop-up gear in Oregon

- Alone or in combination
- Evaluate future use in designated times and areas
- Consider enforcement issues, gear conflicts, safety

Timeline

- Rulemaking August 2026
- Issue permits spring 2027

Pop-up gear basics

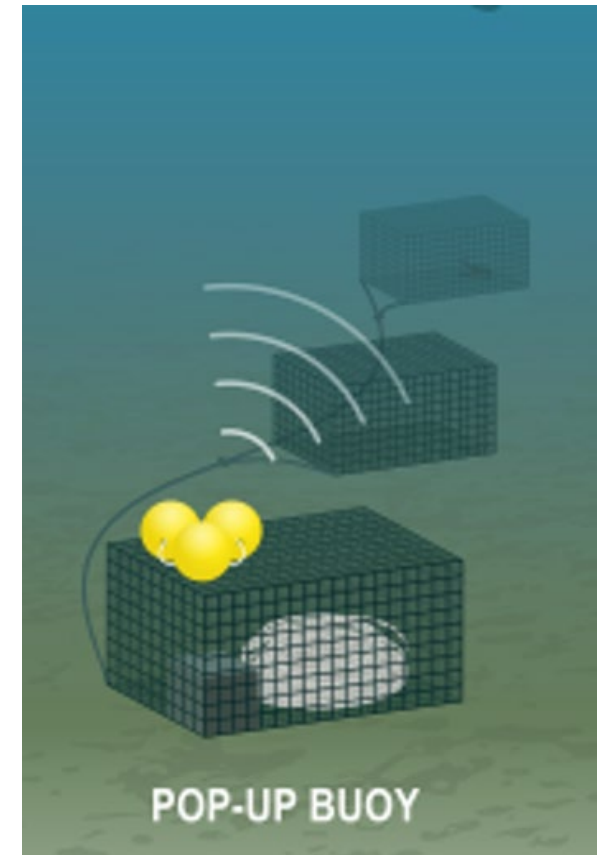
- Acoustic or timed release
- Usually combined with longlining
- Virtual gear marking



Experimental Fishing Gear Permits (EFGPs)

Proposed rule:

- Require department to establish EFGP terms and conditions.
- Require at least one vessel operator named on the EFGP to be onboard the vessel.
- Allow department to deny or revoke an EFGP based on compliance history.
- Allow department to limit number of EFGPs issued based on criteria.
- Prohibit transfer of EFGPs and allow renewal at department's discretion.



Experimental Fishing Gear Permits (EFGPs)

Considerations:

- Testing scope (when, where, and how)
- Incentives
- Eligibility

Evaluation criteria:

- Reliability, efficiency, and safety
- Practical to manage and enforce
- Effectiveness





Issue 4: Surface Gear Housekeeping Amendment



Photo: Chris Peterson, Action Works
Photography

Minor housekeeping

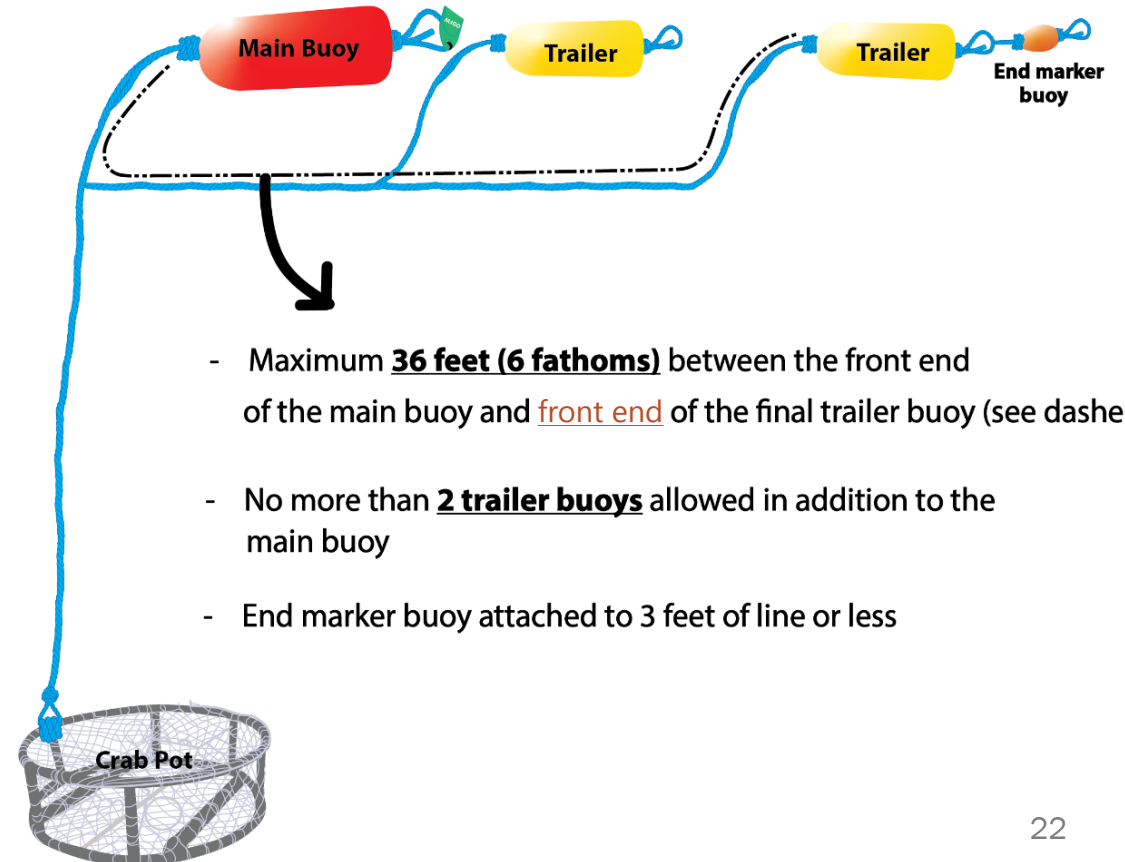


OAR 635-005-0485(9)(c)

“A distance greater than 36 feet between the front end of the main buoy to the tail end of the last trailer buoy.”



Distributed outreach materials



Staff recommendations



Issue 2

Require Oregon commercial crab vessels to use an EM system that records vessel location and the location of individual pots using hydraulic pressure sensor readings by February 1, 2027.



Issue 3

Allow the Department to establish EFGP terms and conditions, deny or revoke an EFGP based on compliance history, limit the number of EFGPs issued for each type or fishing gear, and select applicants based on information needs

Require vessel operated named on EFGP to be onboard the vessel on trips where EFGP gear is used



Issue 4

Modify rule language regarding surface line distance measurement to align with distributed outreach materials



Questions?



**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**

