



Marine  
Resources

# Oregon Entanglement Advisory Committee

**April 4, 2025**  
**8:30am-12:30pm**



Marine  
Resources

# Agenda

## Welcome, agenda overview, & introductions

### ODFW updates

- Recent entanglement record
- Electronic monitoring progress and timeline
- Marine life entanglement policy option package

### Take Reduction Team update

- Discussion of OEAC role

### Pop-up gear knowledge exchange scoping

*---BREAK---*

### Conservation Plan discussion

- Overview of major CP updates
- Adaptive management

### Public comment



# 2024 West Coast whale entanglements\*

NMFS fishery attribution	Humpback whales	Gray whales	Fin whales
CA comm D crab	4	1	-
OR comm D crab	3**	-	1
WA comm D crab	4**	1**	-
WA tribal D crab	-	1**	-
CA coonstripe shrimp	2	-	-
Gillnet	1	1	-
Groundfish trawl	1	-	-
Unidentified	17**	1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

\*2024 data are preliminary

\*\*Two humpback and one gray whale entanglement involved gear from multiple fisheries. These are included in each fishery category, but each counted only once in the total.



Marine  
Resources

# 2024 & 2025 entanglements attributed by NMFS to OR crab gear

## 2024

- Feb 12 – **Fin whale (dead)**
  - Stranded near Warrenton, OR
  - Cause of death likely multifactorial
  - Main season 2023-24 tags only
- Apr 11 – **Humpback whale**
  - Reported/anchored off Depoe Bay, 95 fm depth
  - Unauthorized partial disentanglement
  - Main season 2023-24 tags only
- July 26 – **Humpback whale**
  - Reported in Mexico
  - Main season 2023-24 tag visible in photos, but unable to ID gear owner
- Aug 19 – **Humpback whale**
  - Reported/anchored just N of Coos Bay, ~50 fm depth
  - Multiple gear sets including OR & WA commercial crab
  - Unauthorized partial disentanglement
  - Main season 2023-24 tags only

---

## 2025 (to date)

- Jan 6 – **Humpback whale**
  - Reported off Pacific City
  - Multiple gear sets including at least two OR commercial crab
  - Unauthorized partial disentanglement
  - Main season 2024-25 tags only

# Fishery electronic monitoring update

## Why electronic monitoring?

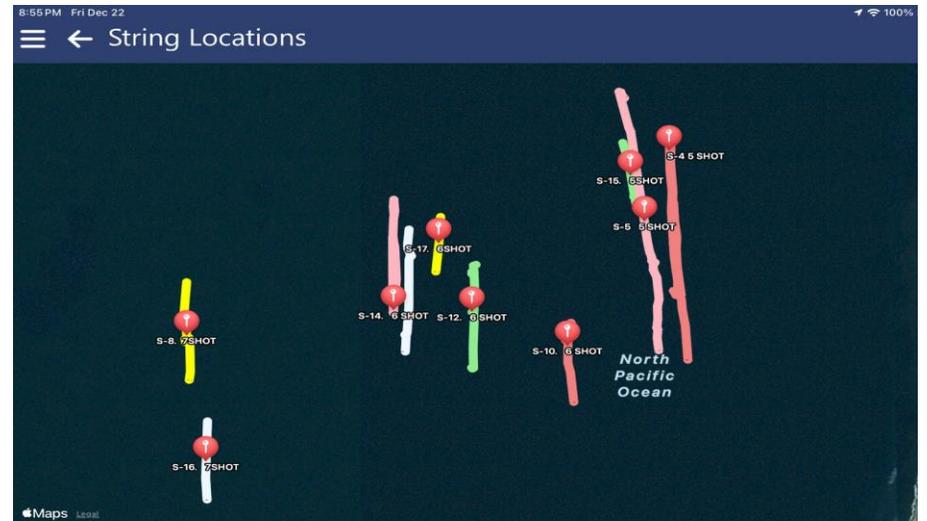
- Inform MLE measures
- Strengthen biotoxin traceability
- Enhance fishery reference point tracking
- Enhance enforcement of fishery regulations

## Recent progress

- Continuing e-log app development
- LIME unit integration
- PSMFC data dashboard and website development
- E-log data integration into internal systems

## Pilot e-logbook feedback

- Easy to install vms and sensor
- Improving with every development phase
- More accurate data
- Many like better than paper!
- More work needed to reduce user inputs, app complexity and crashing





Marine  
Resources

# Electronic monitoring next steps

## Next steps

- Finalize eelogbook application
  - FIS grant funded
  - Streamline flow
  - Derelict gear tracking enhancements
  - Rigorous android and windows testing
  - Transition data host to PSMFC
  - Outreach and training on use of the app
- Finalize draft vms specifications
  - OFWC proposal spring/summer 2026
- Purchase/reimburse vms hardware (if possible)
  - Combined FIS grant and congressional earmarked funding

## Proposed regulation timeline

**Vessel monitoring – 2026-27**

\*voluntary eelog widely available

**Electronic logbook – 2030-31**



# Marine Life Entanglement POP

- Request included in ODFW's budget bill (HB 5009) to make the Marine Life Entanglement Project Leader position permanent
- Position supports:
  - Completing the CP
  - Submitting the ITP application
  - Supporting ODFW's role on the TRT
  - Implementing required monitoring and adaptive management over the long-term
- ODFW is looking at options to meet capacity needs in the interim and/or while the position is being established and recruited for



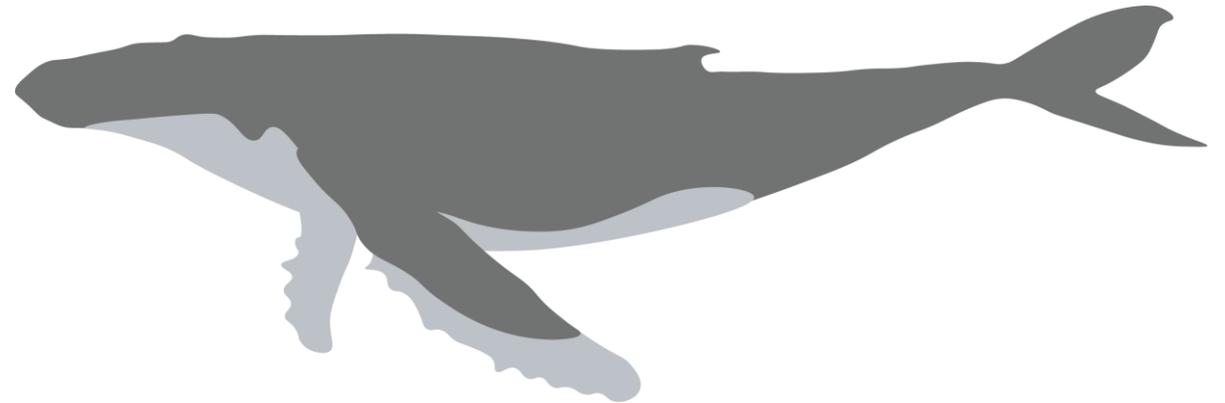
# Take Reduction Team preliminary scope

## Marine Mammal Stocks

- Central America/Southern Mexico – CA/OR/WA humpbacks
- Mainland Mexico – CA/OR/WA humpbacks
- Eastern North Pacific blue whales
- CA/OR/WA fin whales (TBD)

## Fisheries

- Federal sablefish pot fishery
- WA/OR/CA Dungeness crab fisheries
- CA spot prawn



## Goals

- Consensus recommendations for NMFS
  1. Short term (6 months) – reduce Mortality/Serious Injury (M/SI) below Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level
  2. Long term (5 years) – reduce M/SI to insignificant levels (10% PBR)

# TRT members and data

## Team member categories

- Federal and state agencies
- Industry representatives
- Conservationists
- Researchers and gear specialists

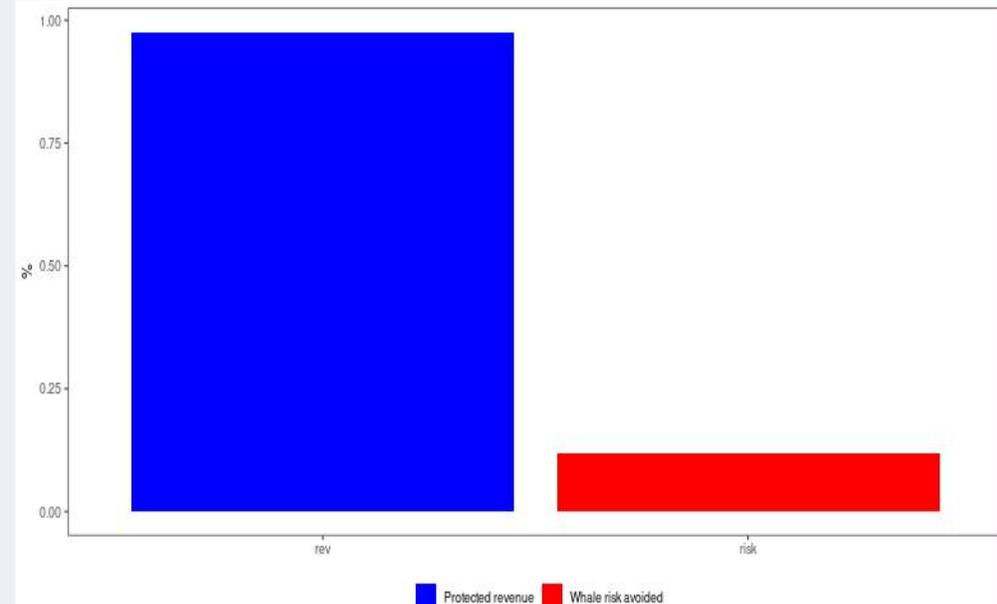
## Data gathering and analysis

- Monthly fishery activity models
- Monthly whale distribution models
- Co-occurrence/risk analysis
- Trade-off assessment tool

Zone map



Trade-offs (mean)





Marine  
Resources

# TRT process

## Intense meeting schedule

- 6 months duration
- ~4 weeklong meetings (Jun-Nov)
- Presentations, full team discussions, break out groups, state caucuses

## Develop Take Reduction Plan

- Reviews stock information
- Estimates M/SI by stock
- Measures for entanglement reduction
- Dates for achieving goals

## Oregon *preliminary* Outreach Plan

- OR TRT members
- OEAC
- ODCAC
- State partners



Marine  
Resources

# Pop-up gear knowledge exchange

- Summer 2025 – Astoria, OR
- Primary objective: To provide an opportunity for learning about pop-up gear technology from existing users

## **For discussion:**

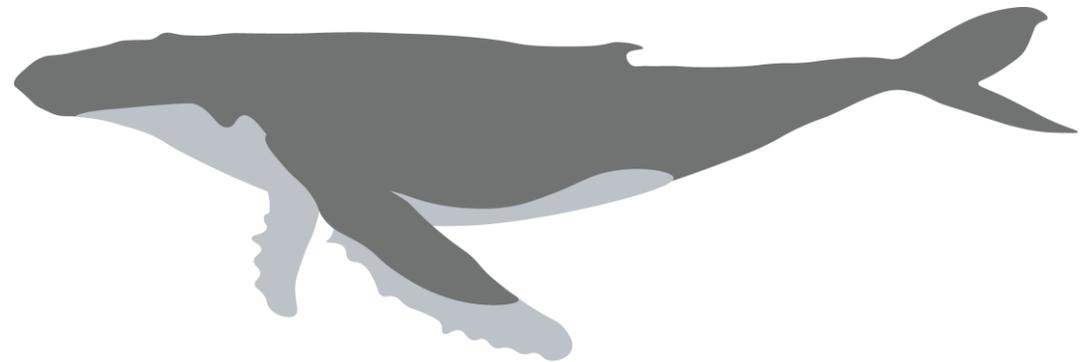
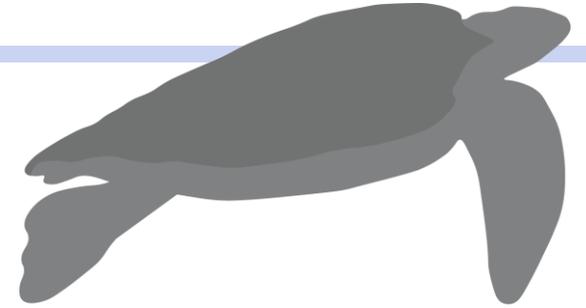
- What do different attendees (industry, conservationists, enforcement, managers) want to get out of this?
- How do we foster interest and engagement in the Oregon crab fleet?
- Are there specific questions that industry has about pop-up gear?



Marine  
Resources

# CP update: Current status and scope

- Bi-weekly meetings with NMFS Office of Protected Resources staff to refine key elements
- Aiming for an adequate and complete draft prior to the start of the TRT
- A full draft will be shared with OEAC prior to formal submission to NMFS
- **Covered species:**
  - CAM and MX DPS humpback whales
  - Blue whales
  - Fin whales
  - Leatherback sea turtles





# CP update: Conservation measures

## Avoidance

- Late-season pot limit reduction & depth restriction
- Elimination of post-season gear clean-up period
- Elimination of standard replacement tags
- Biotoxin management to minimize delay in peak harvest effort

## Minimization

- In-season & post-season derelict gear recovery
- Requirement for maintenance of taut lines
- Limitation of maximum surface gear
- Increased flexibility to minimize season opening delays
- Crab industry education & outreach

## Mitigation

- Public or other fishery outreach
- Requirement for and promotion of Level 1 first responder training
- Entanglement response
- Experimental Fishing Gear Permit program
- Gear workshops
- Risk reduction and monitoring measures in other fisheries (e.g., rec crab)
- Improved information through direct surveys



# CP update: Conservation measures

## Avoidance

- Late-season pot limit reduction & depth restriction
- Elimination of post-season gear clean-up period
- Elimination of standard replacement tags
- Biotoxin management to minimize delay in peak harvest effort

## Minimization

- In-season & post-season derelict gear recovery
- Requirement for maintenance of taut lines
- Limitation of maximum surface gear
- Increased flexibility to minimize season opening delays
- Crab industry education & outreach

## Mitigation

- Public or other fishery outreach
- Requirement for and promotion of Level 1 first responder training
- Entanglement response
- Experimental Fishing Gear Permit program
- Gear workshops
- Risk reduction and monitoring measures in other fisheries (e.g., rec crab)
- Improved information through direct surveys



Marine  
Resources

# CP update: Conservation measures

## Avoidance

- Late-season pot limit reduction & depth restriction
- Elimination of post-season gear clean-up period
- Elimination of standard replacement tags
- Biotoxin management to minimize delay in peak harvest effort

## Minimization

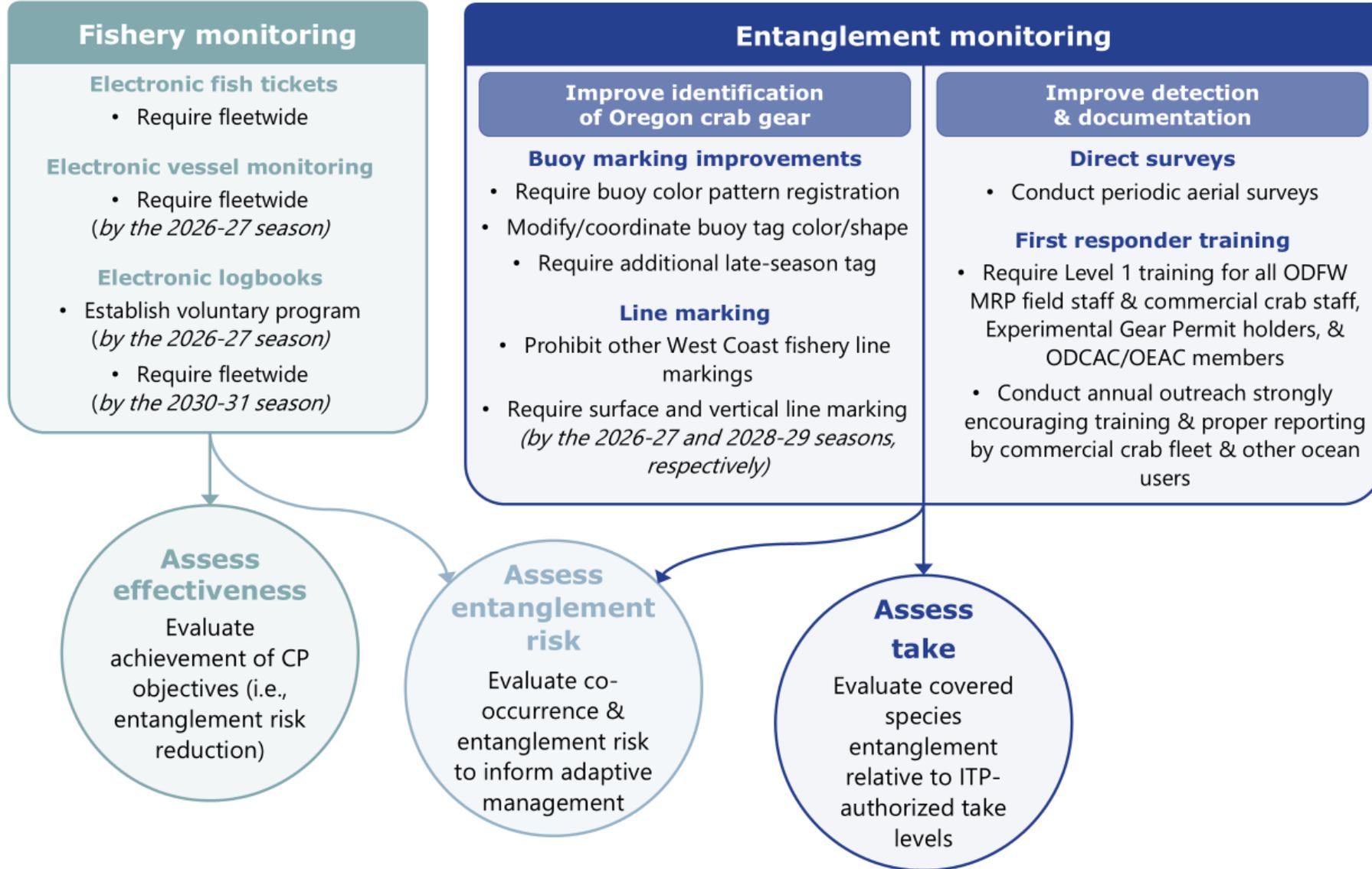
- In-season & post-season derelict gear recovery
- Requirement for maintenance of taut lines
- Limitation of maximum surface gear
- Increased flexibility to minimize season opening delays
- Crab industry education & outreach

## Mitigation

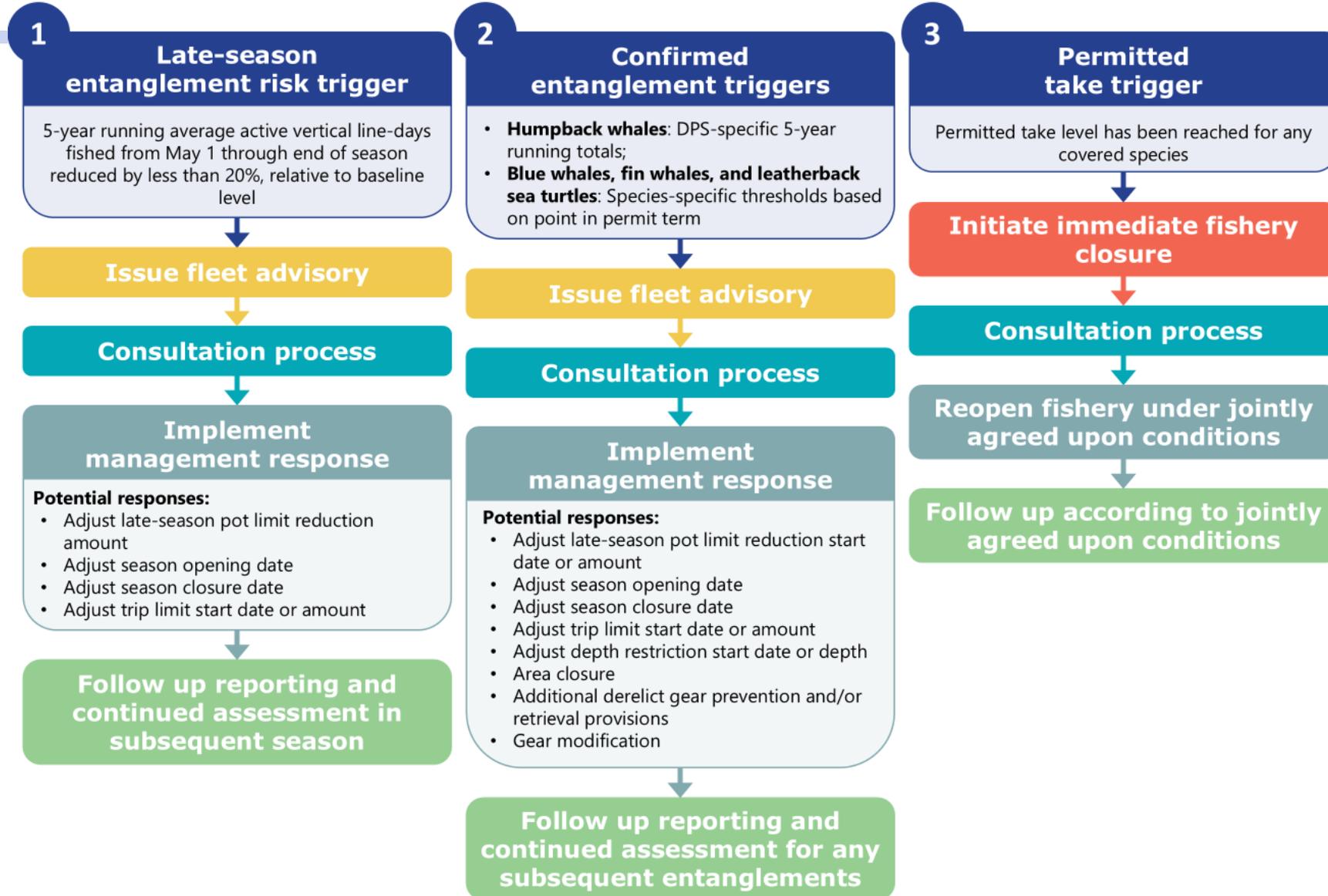
- Public or other fishery outreach
- Requirement for and promotion of Level 1 first responder training
- Entanglement response
- Experimental Fishing Gear Permit program
- Gear workshops
- Risk reduction and monitoring measures in other fisheries (e.g., rec crab)
- Improved information through direct surveys



# CP update: Monitoring

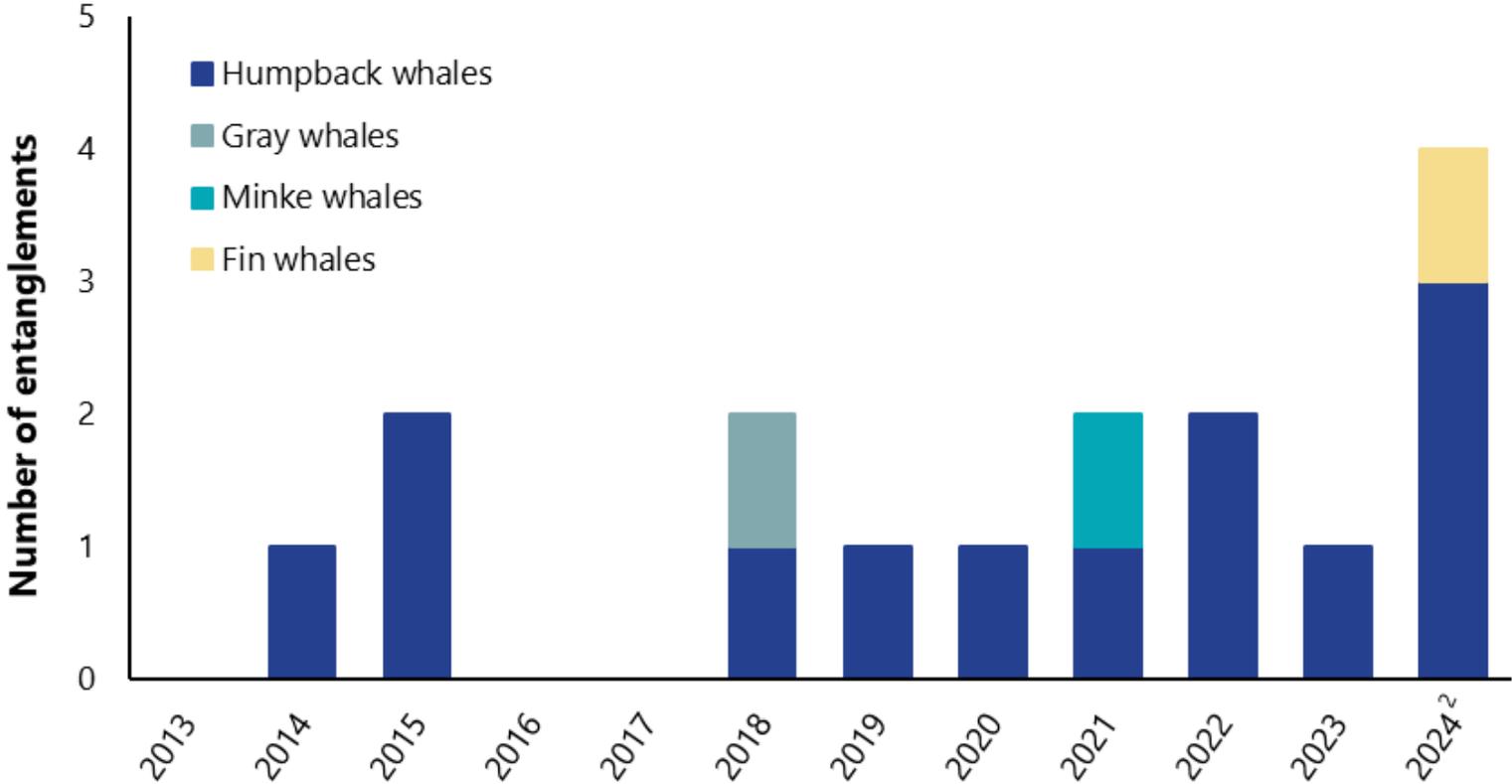


# CP update: Adaptive management



# Interim adaptive management

### Oregon commercial crab entanglements<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Confirmed Entanglements attributed by NMFS to the OR commercial Dungeness crab fishery

<sup>2</sup>2024 data are preliminary



Marine  
Resources

# Interim adaptive management

## 2024

- Record high **total whale and humpback whale** entanglements in gear attributed by NMFS to the OR commercial crab fishery

## January 2025

- Humpback whale entanglement attributed by NMFS to OR commercial crab fishery reported off Pacific City
- Earliest in year an entanglement attributed to the OR commercial crab fishery has been reported

## ODFW fleet advisories

- August 2024 - all commercial and recreational fixed gear fisheries, Charleston to Gold Beach
- January 2025 - commercial crab fishery, OR coastwide
- Remain vigilant, be cautious setting/moving gear, participate in derelict gear recovery, use best practices.



Marine  
Resources

# Interim adaptive management

## Need for response to additional entanglements

- Keep entanglement levels low while ITP and TRT processes ongoing
- M/SI likely approaching negligible impact threshold
- Near potential adaptive management trigger
  - Five-year (2021-2025) running total of confirmed entanglements at 3.4 CAM

## Goals

- Reduce likelihood of more extreme management actions in the future
- Increase likelihood of ITP approval
- Position fishery for success in coastwide TRT negotiations



Marine  
Resources

# Interim adaptive management

## Consider management action in response to next 2025 entanglement

- Evaluate circumstances of recent entanglements to inform effective response

## Potential actions (in-season or next season)

- Depth restrictions – earlier and/or shallower
- Pot limit reductions – earlier and/or more
- Season closure date – earlier
- Start date or amount of trip limits – earlier and/or lower
- Season opening date – as early as possible
- Additional derelict gear provisions
- Area closures



Marine  
Resources

A large, light blue silhouette of a crab is centered in the background of the slide.

---

# Public comment