



Marine
Resources

Oregon Entanglement Advisory Committee

May 2, 2024

1-4:30pm



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Agenda

- **Welcome, tech overview, & introductions**
 - Review agenda
 - OEAC purpose and scope
 - Upcoming recruitment needs
- **ODFW updates and discussion**
 - Recent entanglement record
 - Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit status
 - Management updates
- **Oregon research updates – *Dr. Leigh Torres***
 - Overlap Predictions about Large whales (OPAL) project
 - Scar-based Long-term Assessment of Trends in whale Entanglements (SLATE)
 - Upcoming work and Q&A

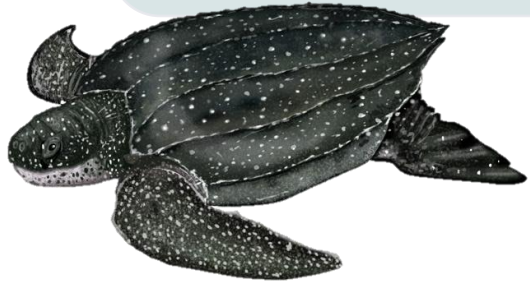
---BREAK---

- **Line marking update and discussion**
- **Take Reduction Team update and discussion – *Dan Lawson***
- **Public comment**

OEAC purpose and scope



Advise ODFW on efforts to reduce the risk of marine life entanglements in Oregon Dungeness crab gear and support ODFW commitments detailed in the CP



Provide ODFW with information and broad perspectives on strategies to support the co-occurrence of economically viable fixed gear fisheries and thriving marine life populations off Oregon

- Primary focus on the crab fishery and CP covered species
- May be consulted in the future on other entanglement-related issues





Upcoming recruitment needs

- **ODFW will be recruiting for:**
 - 2 conservation organization representatives
 - 1 North Coast industry representative
 - 1 recreational crab fishery representative
- Same application process that was used when group was formed
- Priority given to Oregon-based organizations and applicants
- Recruitment will be advertised broadly – how can you help?

Please send recommendations of organizations or individuals to Brittany.L.Harrington@odfw.oregon.gov and advertise within your networks



2023 West Coast whale entanglements

	Humpback whales	Gray whales	Transient killer whales
CA comm D crab	5	2	-
OR comm D crab	1	-	-
WA comm D crab	1	-	-
WA tribal D crab	-	-	1
WA rec D crab	-	-	1
CA spot prawn	1	-	-
Gillnet	1	1	-
Groundfish trawl	1	-	-
Halibut longline + sablefish pot	1	-	-
Unidentified	5	6	-
TOTAL	16	9	2



2023 & 2024 OR crab gear entanglements

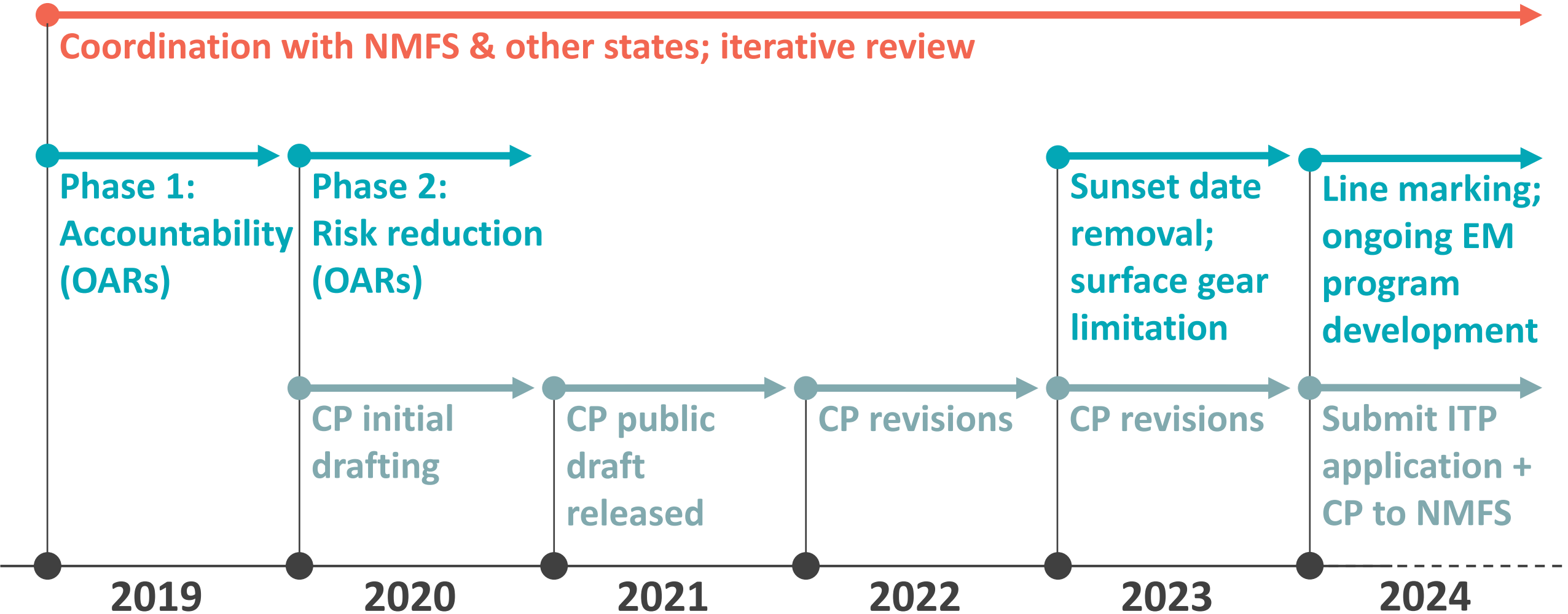
2023

- Oct 23 – **Humpback whale**
 - Reported in Mexico
 - Partial disentanglement
 - Main season 2022-23 tags only

2024 (to date)

- 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 Yachats, 95 fm depth
 - Partial disentanglement
 - Main season 2023-24 tags only

CP and ITP application status





Management updates and discussion

- **August 2023 marine life entanglement OFWC exhibit**
 - Late-season risk avoidance measures
 - Surface gear maximum
 - Enhanced derelict gear incentives
 - 2-year review – planned for early 2026
- **Regulatory next steps for CP implementation**
 - Line marking
 - Electronic monitoring
- **Tri-State Committee meeting**
 - Season opening
 - Line marking
 - Incentivizing derelict gear recovery
 - Fishery overcapitalization





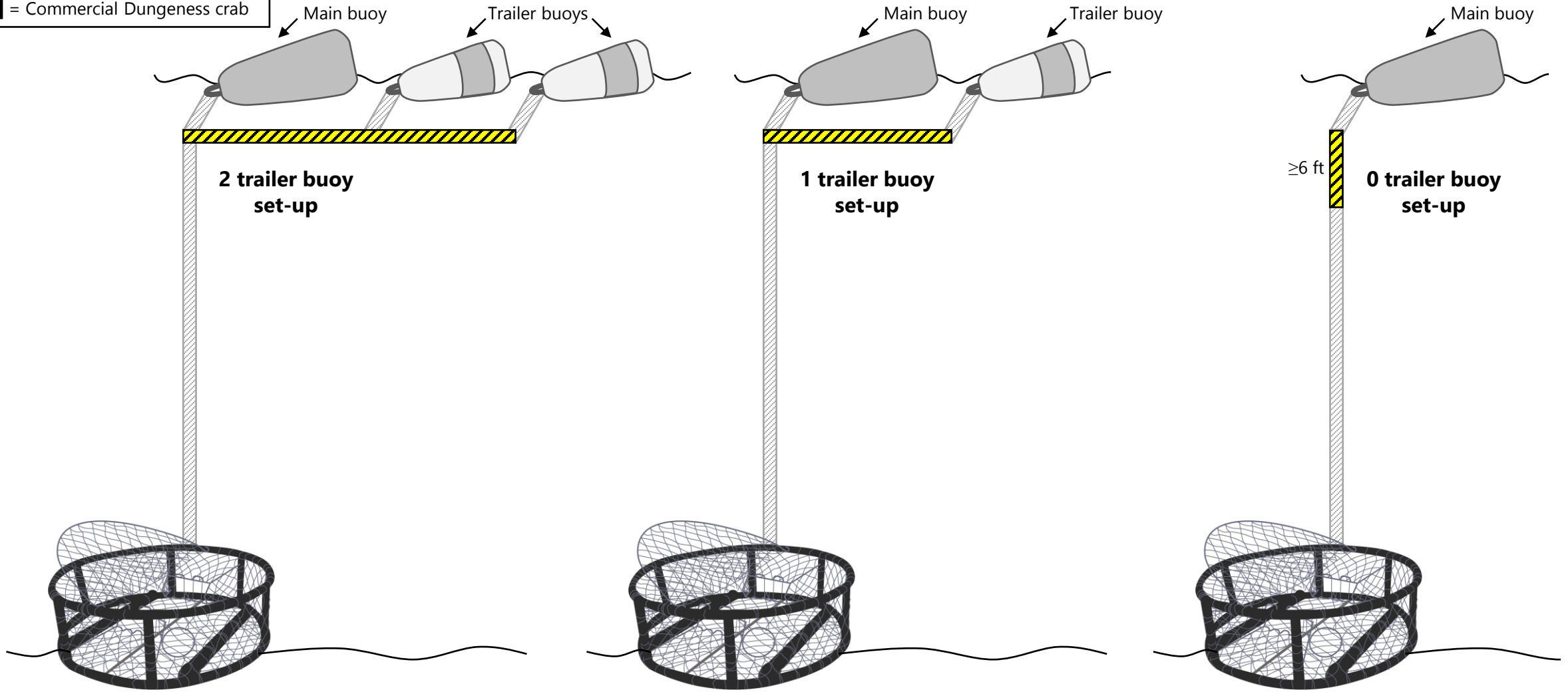
Line marking

- Rulemaking planned for Sept 2024 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting
- **Today's goal:** Gather input on updated proposal to shape what is shared at Tri-State
- **July 2023 proposal** –
 - Manufactured line required for surface line (excl. buoy gangions) by 2025-26 season and upper 15 fathoms of main line by 2027-28 season.
 - When <20 fm of main line used, up to 5 fm closest to pot can be any color.
- **April 2024 updates** –
 - Surface line –
 - When a single buoy is used, top 1 fathom of main line must be marked
 - Upper 15 fathoms of main line –
 - Required by 2028-29 season
 - When fishing between >5 and <20 fm depth, up to 5 fm closest to pot can be any color
 - When fishing ≤5 fm depth, all line must follow color specifications
 - **Allowance for alternative solid marking method – *see following slides***

Draft Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal

Phase 1: Surface Line; Required at start of 2025-26 season

 = Oregon
 = Commercial Dungeness crab





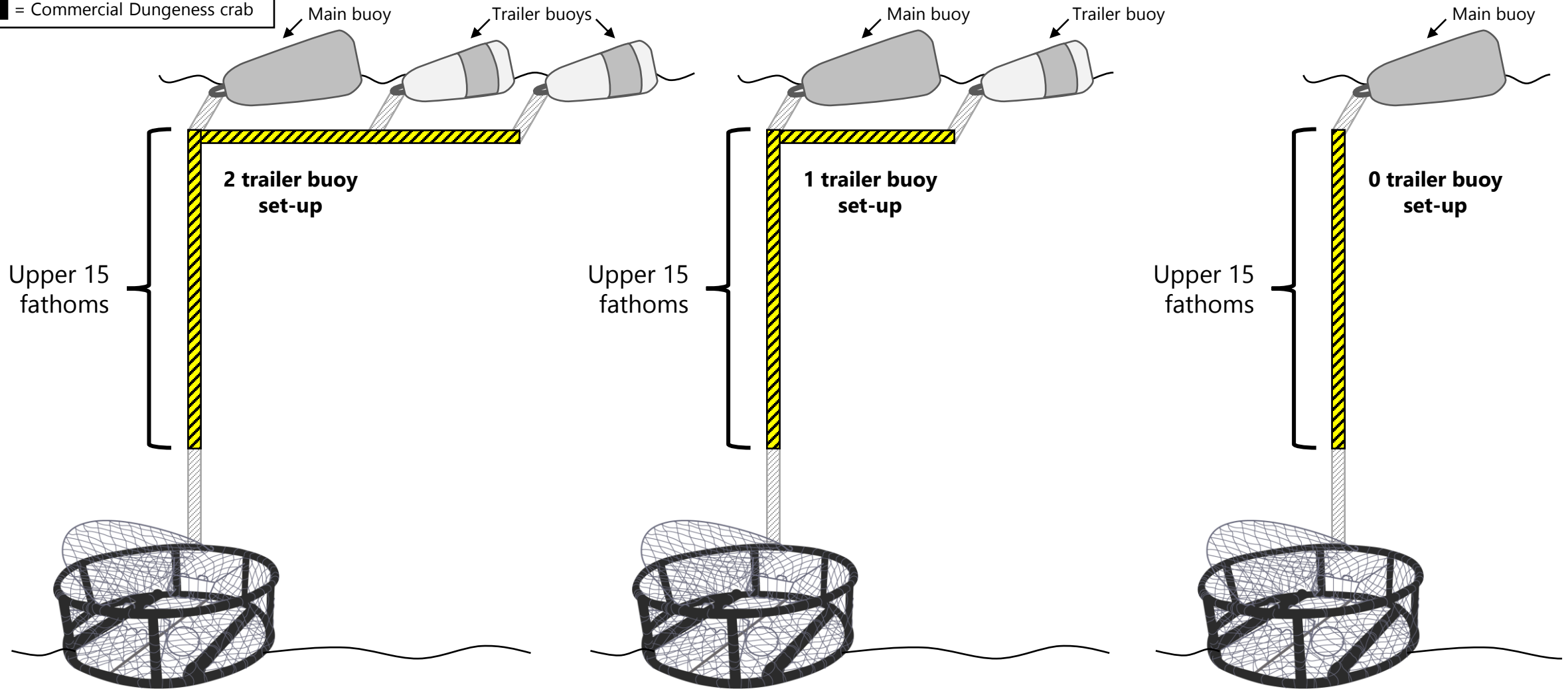
Method: Manufactured – two strand yellow and one strand black

Placement: Used for any surface line (excl. buoy gangions); If only one buoy is used, at least 6 feet (one fathom) at the top of the main line

Draft Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal

Phase 2: Upper Vertical Line; Required at start of 2028-29 season (5 seasons out)

 = Oregon
 = Commercial Dungeness crab



Method: Manufactured – two strand yellow and one strand black

Placement: Used for any surface line (excl. buoy gangions) and the upper 15 fathoms of the main line

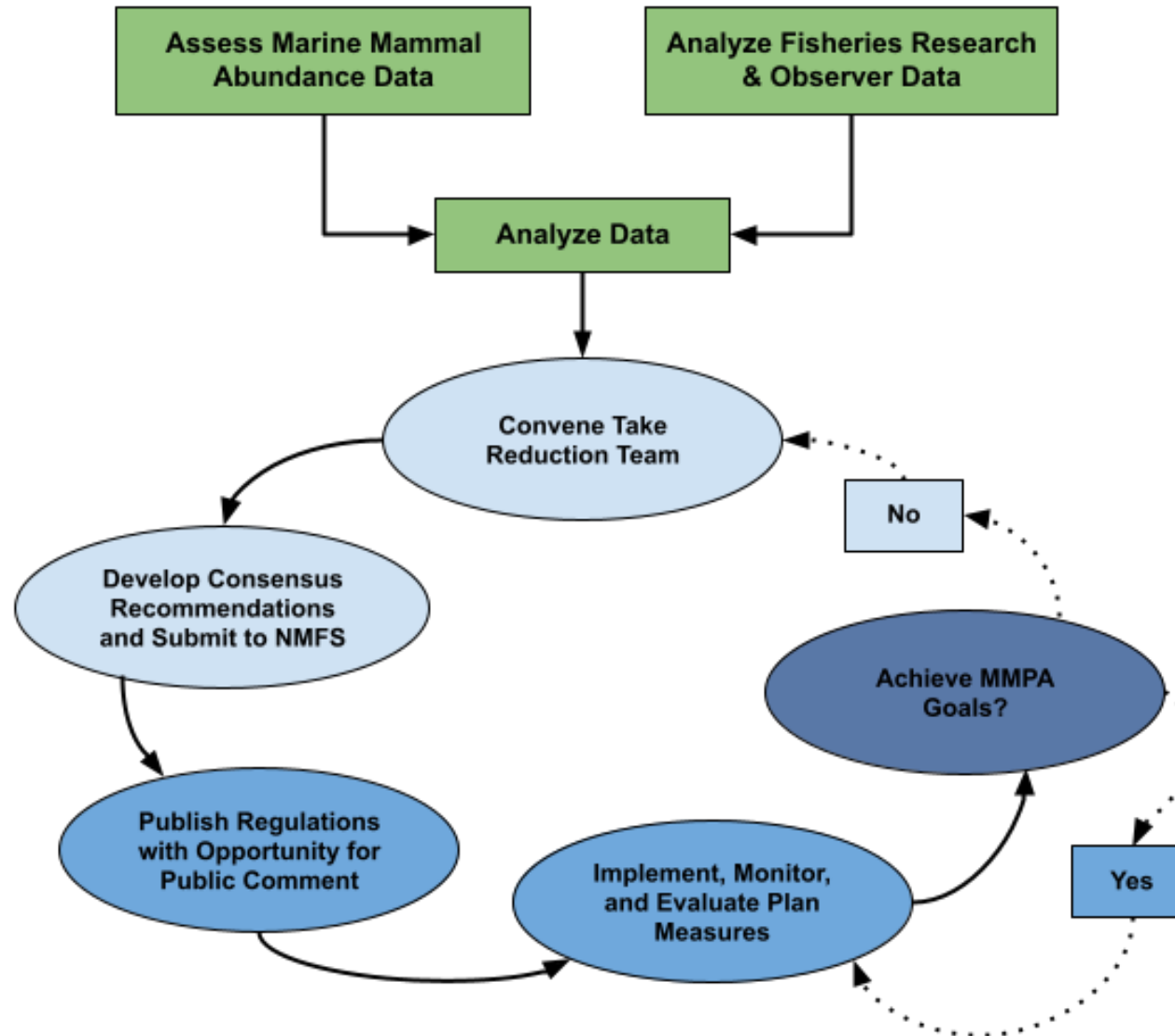
Status of West Coast TRT

- Published FR Notice scoping for the TRT September 29, 2023
 - “seeking information relevant to establishing a take reduction team that would, at a minimum, consider the Federal sablefish pot gear fishery, and may also be expanded to consider other fisheries in the Pacific Ocean that interact with relevant humpback whale stocks.”
 - Received comments from CA, OR, and WA Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Mammal Commission, PFMC, 4 commercial fishing associations, multiple environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and 3 individuals
 - NMFS has preliminarily determined the TRT will include the sablefish pot fishery, 3 State Dungeness crab fisheries, and CA spot prawn fishery.
- Lots of planning and preparation!
 - Assemble and/or generate new data/analyses
 - Hire facilitator, identify and interview stakeholders, select potential TRT members
 - Design process
 - Plan pre-meeting and TRT meetings
 - Hold pre-meeting (TBD, ~ Sept/Oct 2025)
 - Appoint TRT members
- Issue FRN establishing TRT by October 31, 2025 and convene first meeting by **November 30, 2025**

MMPA Section 118 - Take Reduction Program

- Required to develop and implement a take reduction plan for strategic stocks that interact with Category I and II fisheries
 - May also develop plans for non-strategic stocks that interact with Category I fisheries
- Goals:
 - **Short-term** goal (within 6 months): mortality & serious injury < PBR
 - **Long-term** goal (within 5 years): mortality & serious injury < insignificance threshold (i.e., 10% of PBR), considering:
 - Economics of the fishery
 - Availability of existing technology
 - Existing state/regional fishery management plans

Take Reduction Process Overview



Take Reduction Teams

- Stakeholder-based advisory groups
- Equitable balance of user and non-user groups



*“Members **shall** include representatives of...*

- Federal agencies,
- each coastal State which has fisheries which interact with the species or stock,
- appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils,
- interstate fisheries commissions,
- academic and scientific organizations,
- environmental groups,
- all commercial and recreational fisheries groups and gear types which incidentally take the species or stock,
- Alaska Native organizations or Indian tribal organizations, and
- others as the Secretary deems appropriate.”

TRT Member Selection Criteria

- Ability to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on the relevant fisheries and/or marine mammal species;
- Ability to balance a regional perspective with localized knowledge;
- Willingness to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions) and to clearly convey the interests of one or more important stakeholder groups;
- Ability to work collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of a broad range of constituencies;
- Ability to access and use an effective communication network to reach members of their constituency not attending Team meetings;
- Availability and willingness to travel and participate in in-person meetings;
- Proven track record of engaging in constructive dialogues on controversial resource management issues;
- Extent to which candidates' participation on other teams fosters or hinders deliberations; and
- Ability to represent multiple factions of a constituency (e.g., multiple sectors of a fishery or a wide array of particular fishery).



Timeline for Developing a Take Reduction Plan

- Rigorous timeline in MMPA:
 - TRT develops draft Plan by **consensus** within 6 months
 - NMFS publishes proposed Plan within 60 days of receipt
 - Up to 90 days of public comment
 - NMFS publishes final Plan within 60 days of close of public comment period
- **If TRT does not reach consensus on recommendations, NMFS must still publish a proposed Plan!**

How do Teams work?

- Usually hold a pre-meeting before the Team is officially established by FRN to discuss:
 - MMPA process and requirements
 - General info on marine mammals included
 - General info on the fishery(ies) included
- With a new team, we hold several meetings (~4) over 6 months - intense!
- Mix of presentations, full team discussions, small groups (both within and cross-caucus)
- Identify all possible options ⇒ package of take reduction measures that achieves MMPA goal



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

Public comment