



Marine  
Resources



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# Oregon (Whale) Entanglement Working Group

**March 3, 2022**





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# Conservation Plan

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**CP Vision:** Aligned management and conservation goals allow the co-existence of an economically viable commercial crab fishery and ESA-listed marine life populations in Oregon



**DRAFT**

## Conservation plan for reducing the impact of the Oregon ocean commercial Dungeness crab fishery on ESA-listed species off Oregon

Prepared for the

National Marine Fisheries Service

by the

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Marine Resources Program



2040 SE Marine Science Drive  
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<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/>

August 2021

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/docs/2021/Public\\_CP\\_DRAFT\\_8.18.21.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/docs/2021/Public_CP_DRAFT_8.18.21.pdf)



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# Conservation Plan advisory framework

## OEWG

- Advise on broad entanglement-related issues that benefit from diverse stakeholder collaboration and input
- Annual meetings + more often, as needed

## ODCAC

- Advise on various issues, including entanglement, that require crab industry-specific feedback, particularly related to fleet operations
- Ad hoc meetings

## Oregon Entanglement Summits

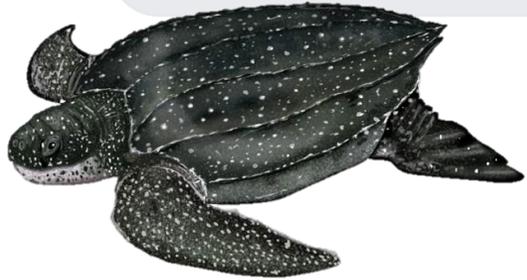
- Sessions dedicated to gear marking and modifications, adaptations to the conservation strategy, and research priorities
- A commitment in draft CP objectives
- Convened at least every five years



# OEWG Purpose and scope

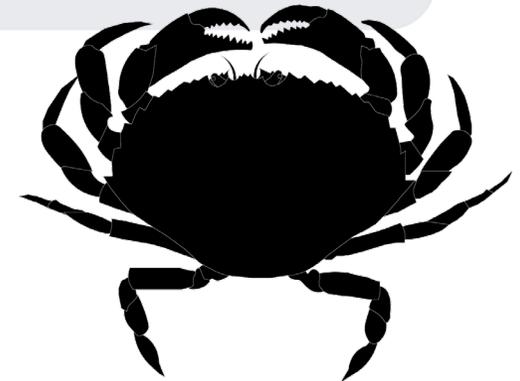


Advise ODFW on efforts to reduce the risk of marine life entanglements in Oregon Dungeness crab gear and support ODFW commitments detailed in the CP



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

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





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# OEWG Objectives

*To evaluate strategies to reduce entanglement risk and advise ODFW on achieving CP objectives by:*

- Evaluating effectiveness and impacts of **existing fishery management measures**
- Considering and recommending **future fishery management measures** and adaptations to Oregon's conservation strategy
- Exploring **potential innovative technologies and approaches** that could be applied in Oregon
- Identifying **research priorities and actions** for ODFW, researchers, and other partners to pursue
- Providing a hub for **communication and idea sharing**



# OEWG meeting structure and procedures

- Open to the public and announced on the ODFW website
- In-person attendance is not required (webinar or conference call options)
- Members expected to attend the majority of OEWG meetings (annual + more often, as needed)
- Priority given to discussion with members, with a brief opportunity for public input if time allows
- All discussion that takes place will serve to advise ODFW
- Meetings will not be recorded, but ODFW staff will take minutes and publish a summary



# Oregon Entanglement Summits

- A commitment in the CP
- Sessions dedicated to four key subject areas:
  - **Gear modifications** as they are demonstrated to be feasible for fishery operations and beneficial to covered species conservation off Oregon;
  - **Adaptations to the overall management strategy** (including improvements or alternatives) that are at least as protective of covered species as the existing measures, to further reduce entanglement risk while supporting ODFW's ability to make targeted decisions that minimize impacts to the crab fishery;
  - **Further gear marking** modifications to improve identification of gear involved in entanglement reports; and
  - **Research priorities** to fill critical management information and research gaps for Dungeness crab, CP covered species (humpback whales, blue whales, leatherback sea turtles), fishery gear, and management measures.
- OEWG and ODCAC will be invited to participate
  - Other subject matter experts, fishery managers from other states, and NMFS partners may also be invited



# OEWG membership and expectations

- A group of 15 – 20 diverse stakeholders:
  - Commercial crab industry (different roles, ports, business plans)
  - Recreational crab industry
  - Conservation organizations
  - Researchers
  - Other subject matter experts (e.g., policy, gear, disentanglement, citizen science)
- 3-year member terms
  - Active members may be reappointed at ODFW's discretion
  - ODFW may solicit applications for or appoint new members at any time
  - Member names and affiliation posted on the ODFW website

## Member expectations:

Represent perspectives of participants who are similarly situated

Be courteous, professional, and respectful

Come prepared to meaningfully contribute and look for common solutions

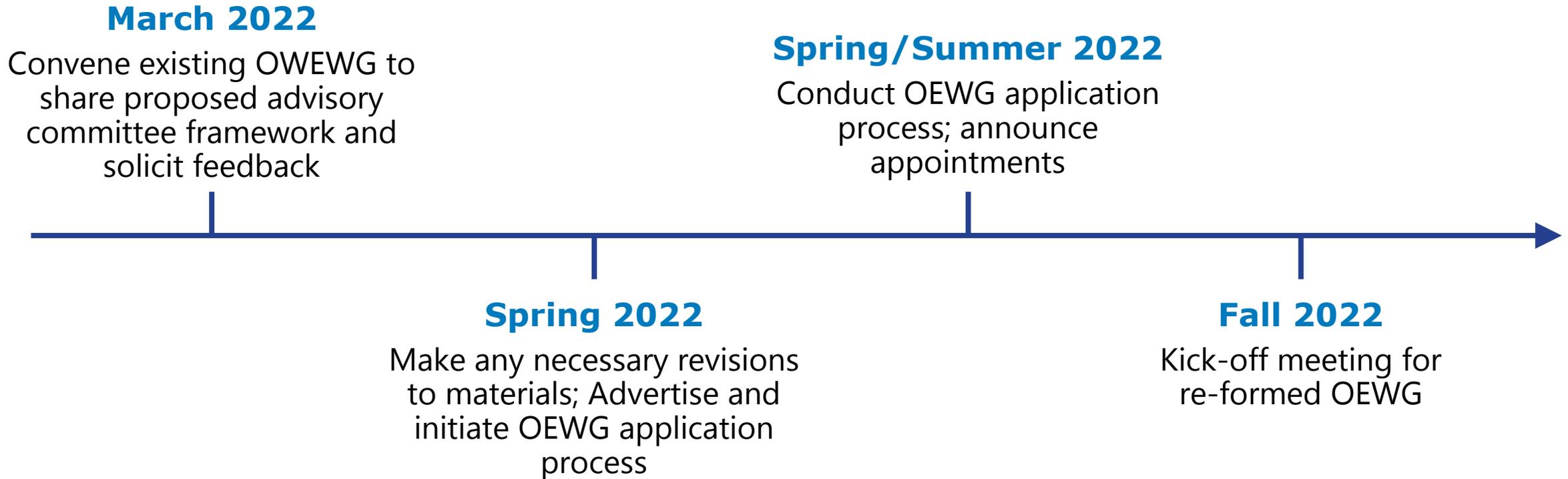


# OEWG application process

- Application period in spring 2022
- Notice and form will be posted on ODFW website and widely distributed
- ODFW will select members representing the diversity of industry participants and interested stakeholders, including consideration of:
  - Past participation in OWEWG
  - Relevant expertise in addressing marine life entanglements in fishing gear
  - Home port
  - Participation in West Coast fixed gear fisheries
- May also consider licensing, landing, enforcement, and other relevant information
- Aim to announce appointments about a month after the close of the application period



# Timeline and next steps



**Questions?**



**Photo: ODFW**