

Figure 1. Annual number of confirmed reports of entangled whales in Dungeness crab gear from California, Oregon, Washington (and unknown) by species. In the legend, “n” represents the total number of whales of each species confirmed entangled from 2003 through 2019. Washington entanglements include whales entangled in tribal commercial crab gear. Two whales are counted in multiple panels that were entangled in gear from multiple states (one humpback in OR + WA gear in 2010, one gray in CA + OR gear in 2012). Three humpback whales that were entangled in recreational crab gear are not included (one in WA gear in 2011, two in CA gear in 2015 and 2017). One gray whale entangled in CA crab gear in 1988 is not included. Data is summarized from entanglement data received from NOAA in November, 2019.

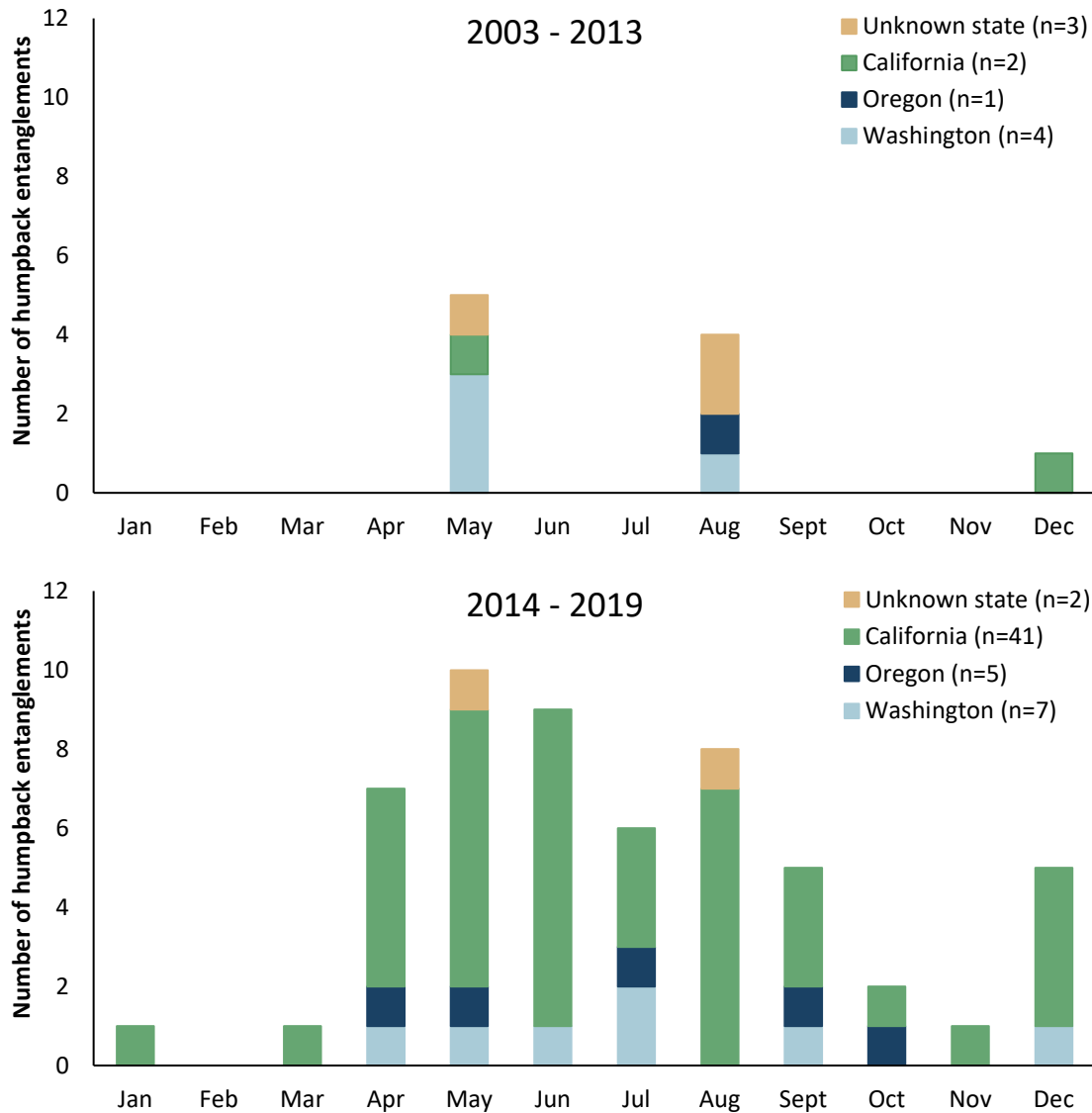


Figure 2. Number of confirmed reports of entangled humpback whales in Dungeness crab gear from California, Oregon, and Washington by month reported. In the legend, “n” represents the total number of humpback whales confirmed entangled during each time period. Entanglements during the last six years are compared to pre-2014 levels due to the large increase in coastwide entanglements that has occurred since 2014. Washington entanglements include whales entangled in state and tribal commercial crab gear. One whale is double counted that was entangled in both OR and WA crab gear in 2010. Three whales that were entangled in recreational crab gear are not included (one in WA gear in 2011, two in CA gear in 2015 and 2017). Data is summarized from entanglement data received from NOAA in November, 2019.

ODFW Revised Proposal for short term measures to reduce risk of whale entanglements in Dungeness crab gear - Phase II

December 2019

A. Target implementation – within the 2019/20 crab season

- 10-30% gear reduction effective April or May (but June in 2020)
 - Late-season buoy tag (required)
 - Depth restriction in combination with reduction (30 fathoms)
 - Sunset – after 3 seasons (optional)
- Eliminate two-week gear clean-up period
- Best Practices – lines taut, minimize surface gear (no sunset)
- Fishermen education (non-rulemaking)
 - Best practices
 - Encourage fishers to participate in disentanglement training

B. Target implementation – Beginning the 2020/21 crab season

- Eliminate replacement tags
 - With opportunity for replacement tags due to “undue hardship”
- Line marking
 - 2 marks, 12 inches, neon orange

