



Marine
Resources

Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee

April 17, 2024
10am-12:45pm



Agenda

- **Welcome, tech overview and introductions**
 - Review agenda and purpose for today's meeting
- **Season opening issues**
- **Line marking update**
- **Additional Tri-State discussion topics**
 - Fishery overcapitalization
 - Derelict gear recovery programs
- **Take Reduction Team update**
- **Public comment**

Meeting purpose

Goal: Prepare Oregon managers and advisors for Tri-State Committee meeting in May

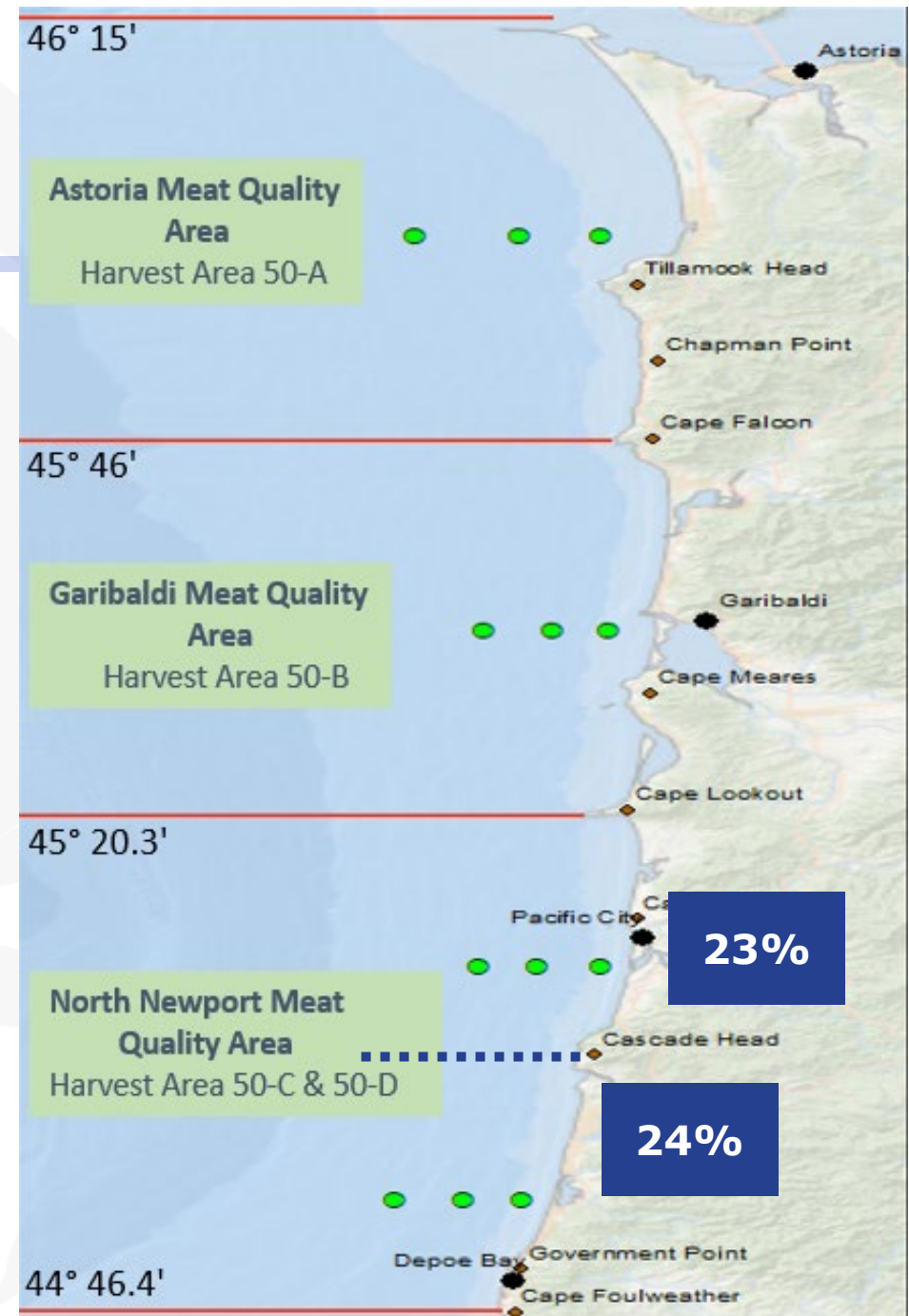
- **Objective 1 - Discuss specific input on:**
 - Season opening issues
 - Line marking updated proposal
- **Objective 2 - Discuss broad input on:**
 - Fishery overcapitalization
 - Derelict gear recovery program
- **Objective 3 - Provide update on Take Reduction Team**



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Season opening

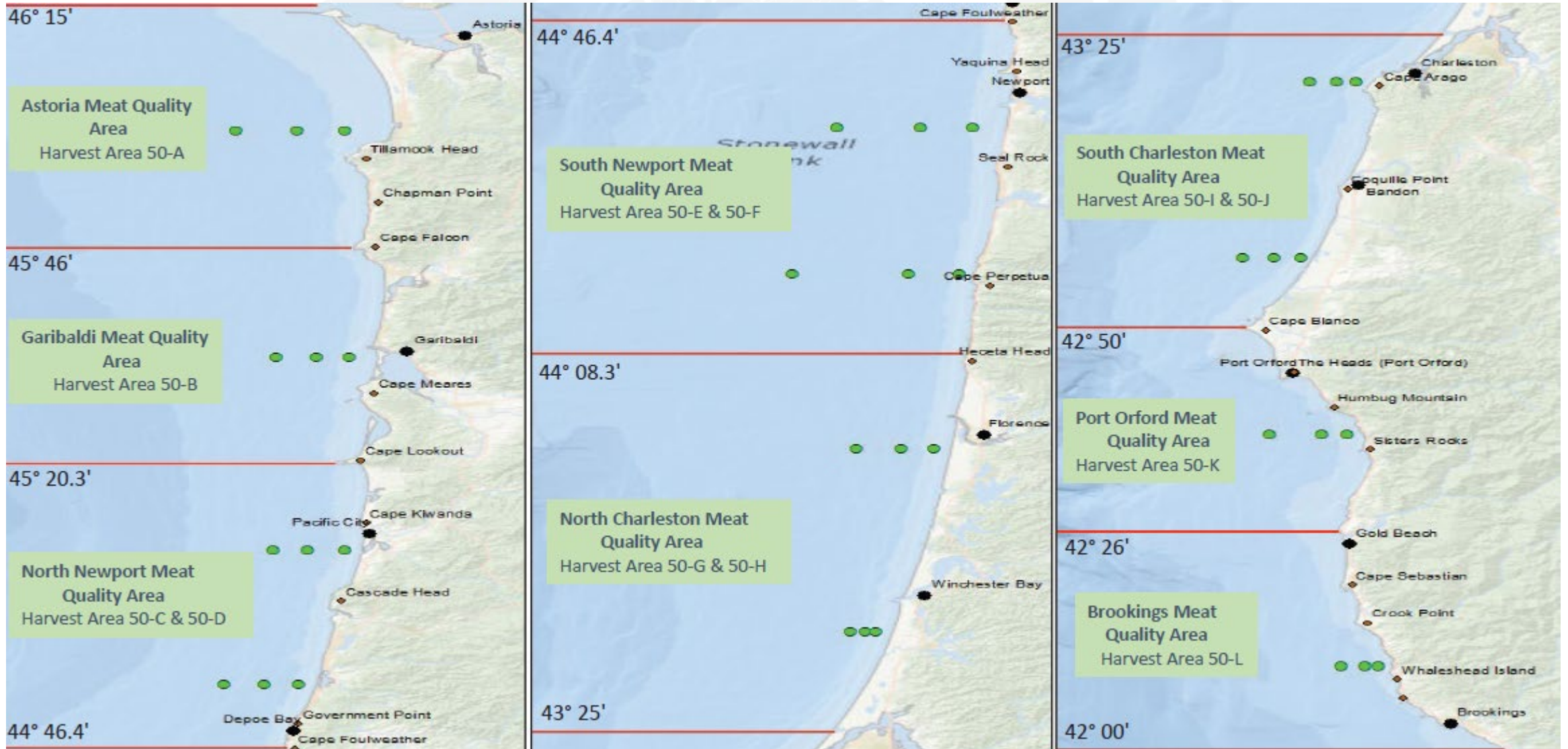
- **Meat criteria** – Cascade Head splits a combined meat recovery area (C and D)
- **Options:**
 1. Make criteria consistent for entire Tri-State area
 2. Move criteria line up – Cape Lookout, Cape Falcon, OR/WA border
 3. Move criteria line down – Cape Foulweather, other?
 4. Keep meat recovery areas C and D separate?
 - Need to consider how to treat other combined areas
 5. Other?





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OR meat recovery areas





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Season opening

- **February 1 last opening date** – extending higher effort later into the season which increases entanglement risk. California does not have authority to delay to Feb 1 for meat recovery.
- **Options:**
 1. Remove Feb 1 date from protocol
 2. Maintain Feb 1 but strengthen caveats for use
 3. Status quo

Crab Season	Regulatory Season Opening Date (s)
	Dec 1 south of OR/CA border
2013-14	Dec 16 north of OR/CA border
2014-15	Dec 1 coastwide
	Jan 4 north of OR/CA border
2015-16	CA opened March-May in block openings
	Dec 1 south of OR/CA border
	Dec 18 south of Cape Blanco
2016-17	Jan 1 north of Cape Blanco
	Jan 15 Cape Blanco to OR/WA border, south of OR/CA border
2017-18	Feb 7 Cape Blanco to OR/CA border
	Jan 4 north of Cape Arago
	Jan 15 Point Arena to Patricks Point
	Jan 25 Patricks Point to OR/CA border
2018-19	Feb 1 from Cape Arago to OR/CA border
2019-20	Dec 31 coastwide
	Dec 16 All CA to Cape Falcon
2020-21	Feb 15 All WA state fishery down to Cape Falcon
2021-22	Dec 1 coastwide
	Jan 15 Cape Falcon to Cape Arago
	Feb 1 Cape Falcon to OR/WA border
2022-23	Feb 4 Cape Arago to OR/CA border
	Dec 16 OR/CA border to Cape Foulweather
	Dec 31 Cape Foulweather to Cape Falcon
2023-24	Feb 1 Cape Falcon to OR/WA border



Season opening

- **December 1 target opening date** – some industry concern with more delayed season openings
- **Options:**
 1. Change to alternate date
 2. Status quo

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Season opening

- **30-day fair start** – some concern from industry that 30 days is too long with allowance for multiple area openings for meat recovery and/or biotoxin delays
- **Options:**
 1. Shorten fair start period
 2. Shorten fair start period based on size of openings
 3. Status quo

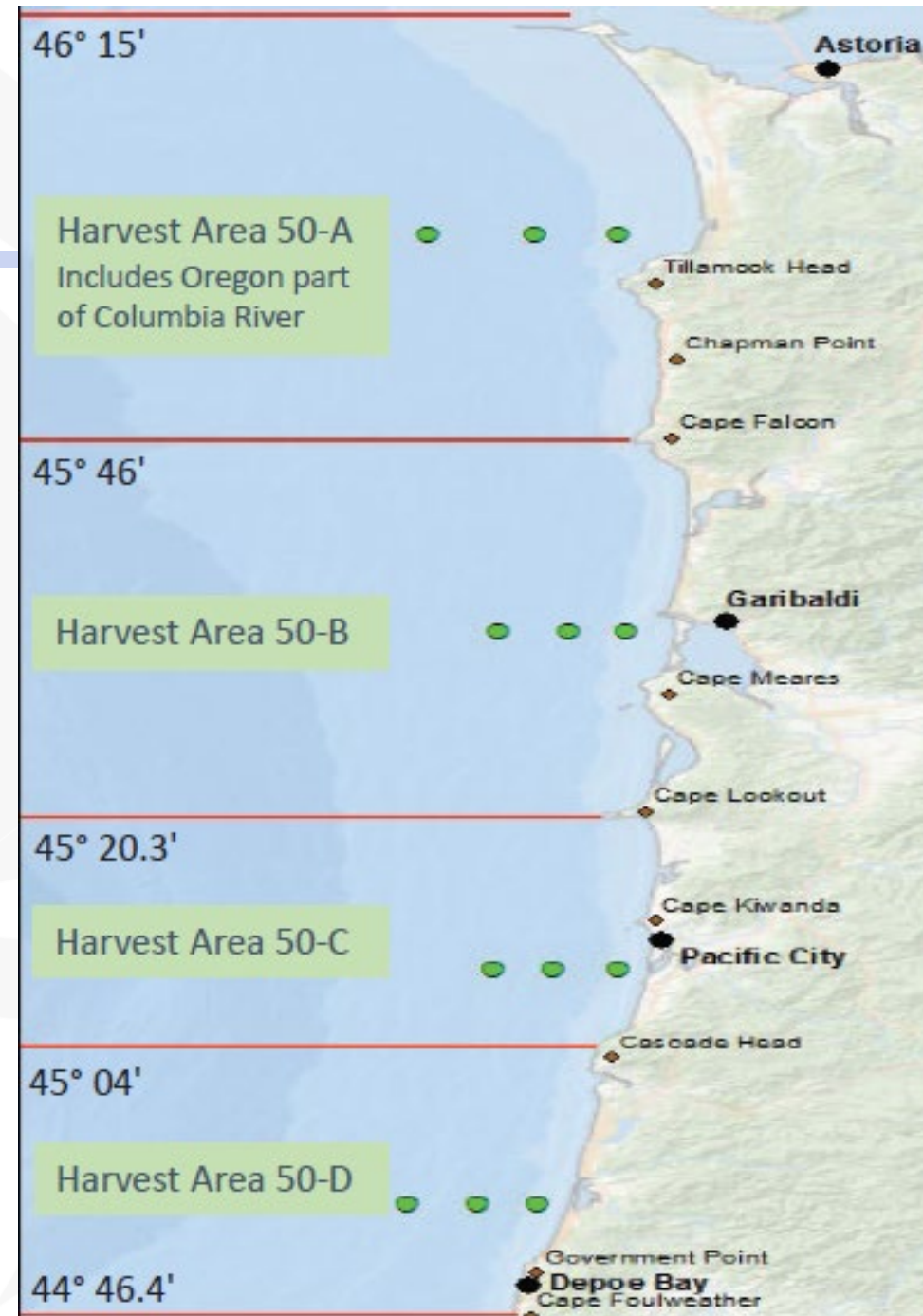
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Season opening

- **Area A sampling station** – concerns from Astoria fleet that this station is not representative of crab delivered into Astoria.
- **Options:**
 1. Move test station north
 2. Add another test station and spread them out equally
 3. Status quo
 4. Other?





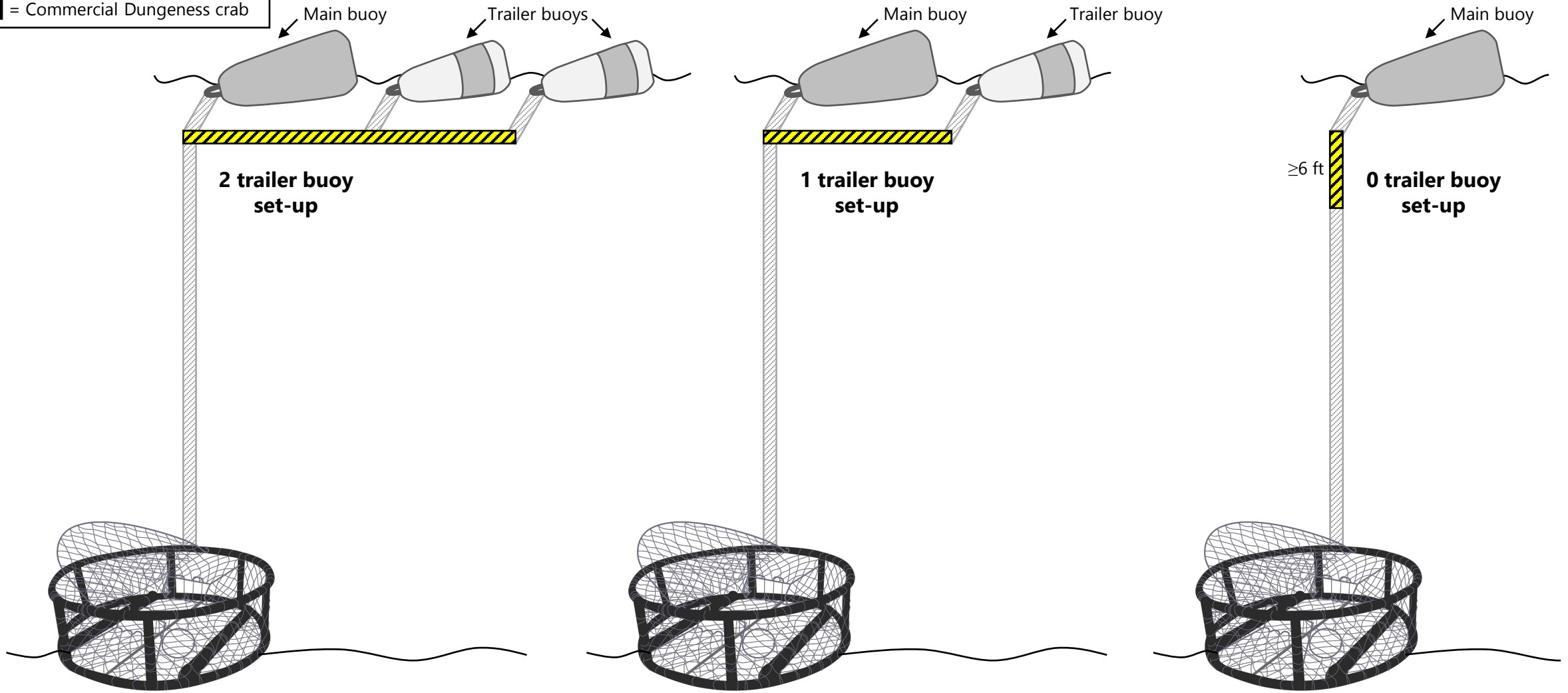
Line marking

- Rulemaking planned for Sept 2024 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





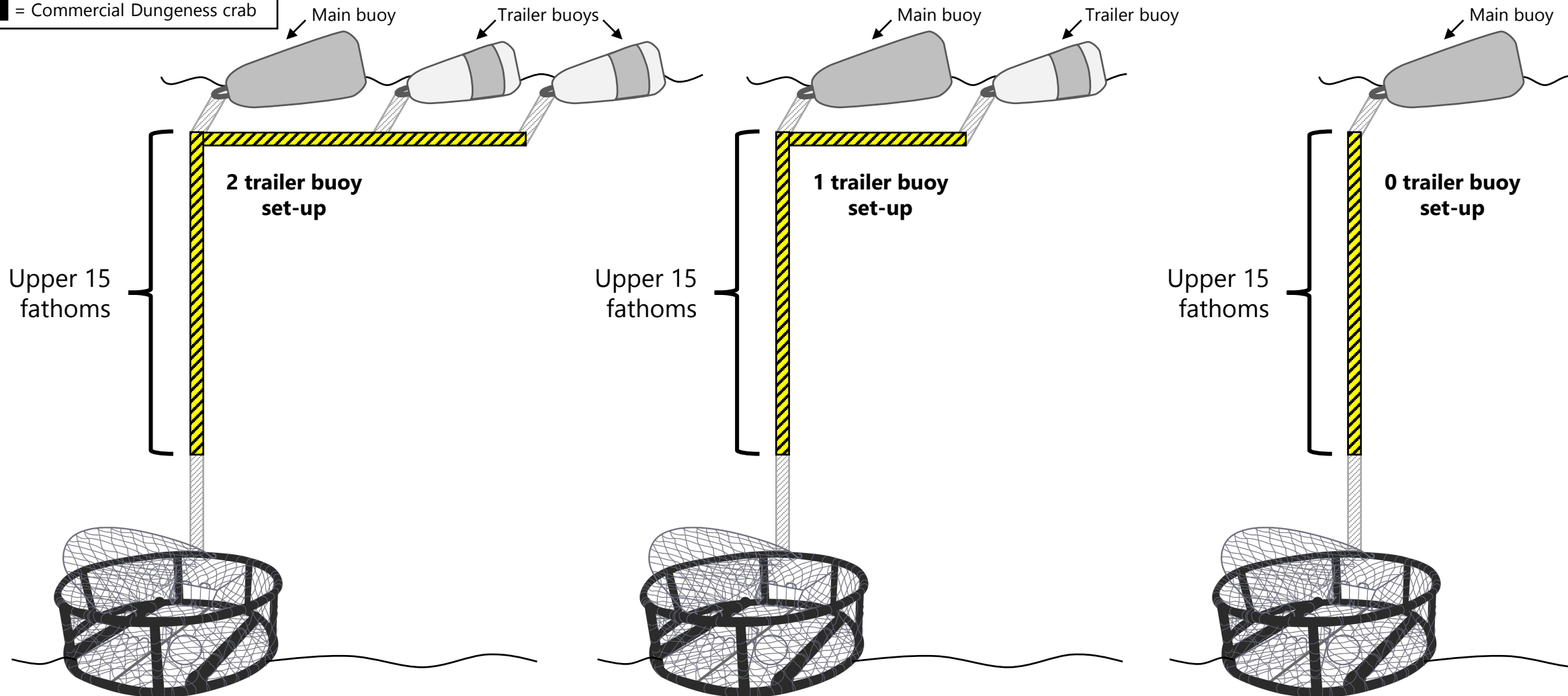
Method: Manufactured – two strand yellow and one strand black

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





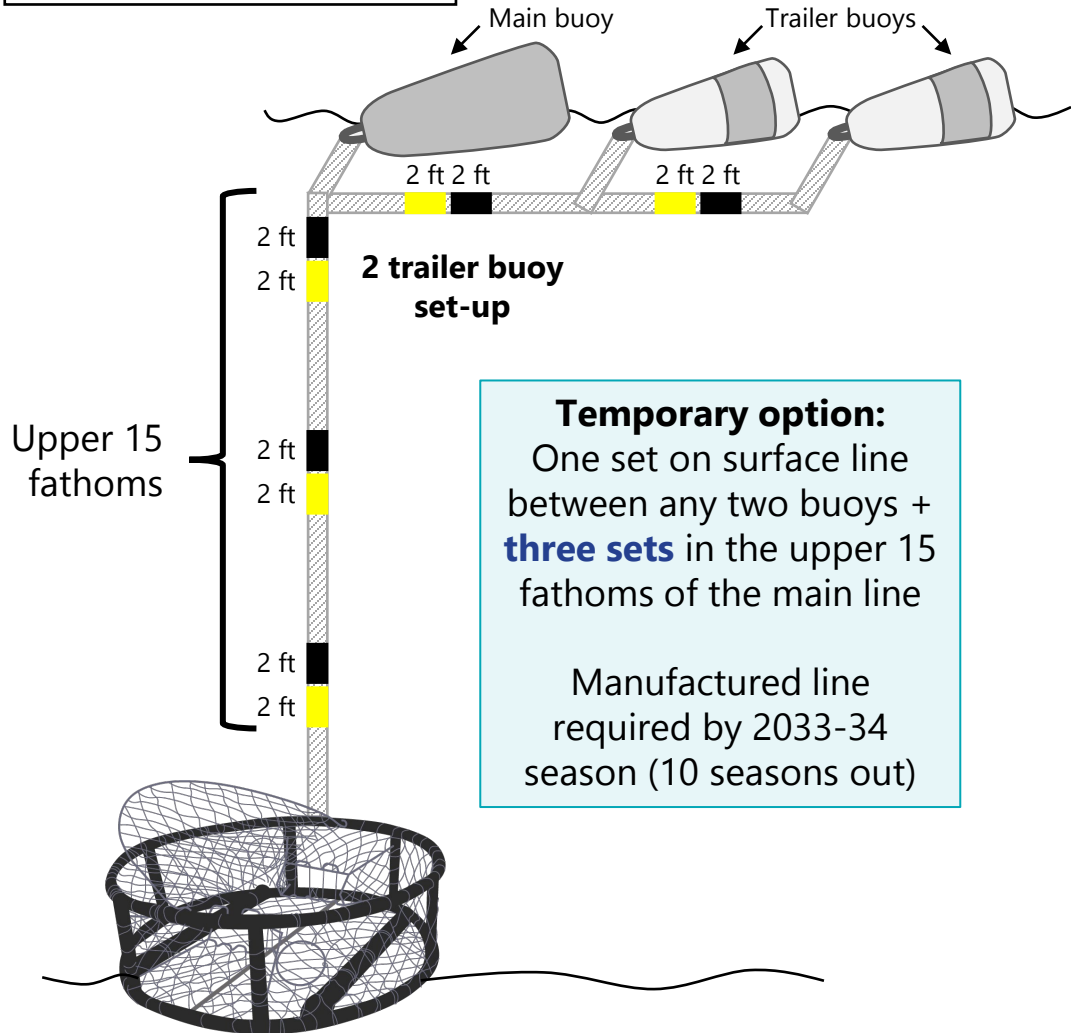
Method: Manufactured – two strand yellow and one strand black

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

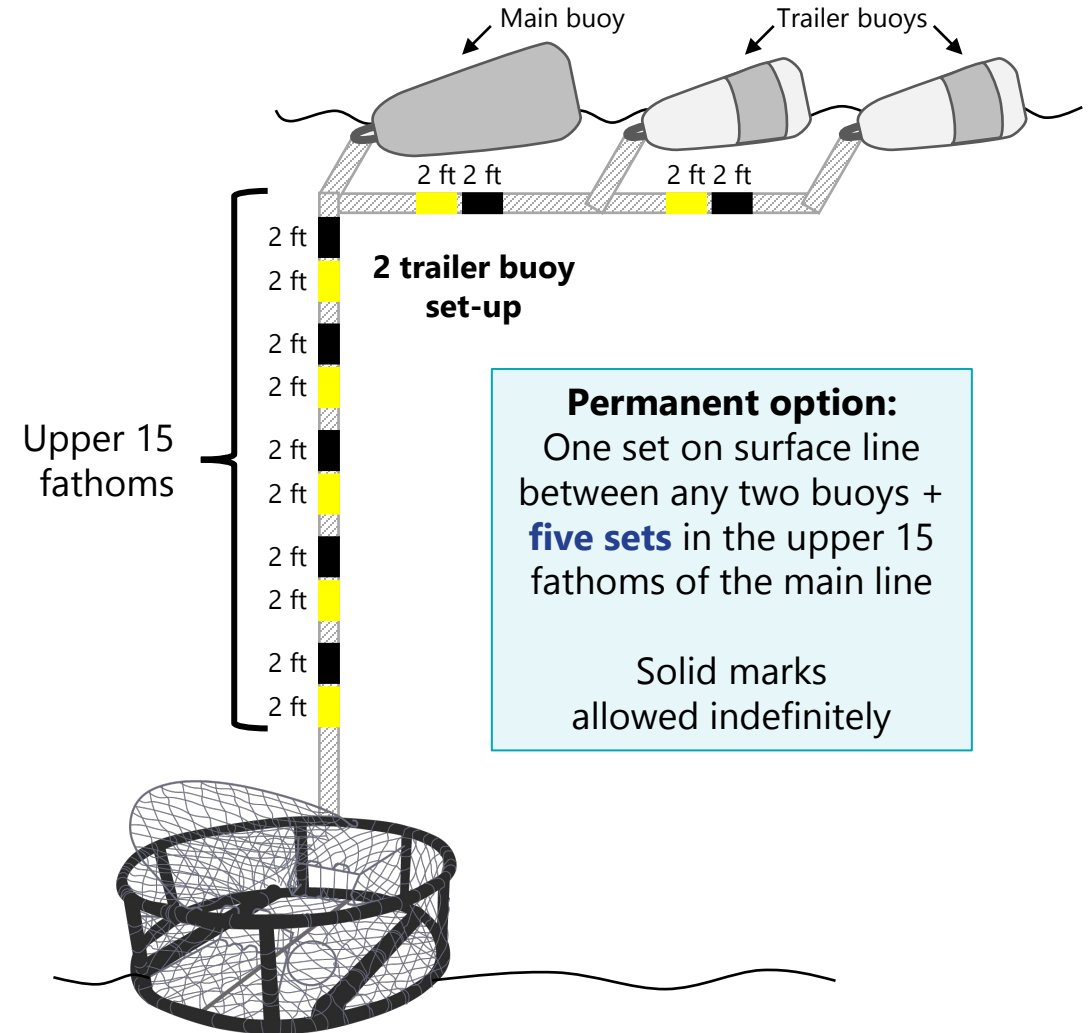
Draft Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal

Alternative marking method: Sets of solid marks (2' black within 6" of 2' yellow)

 = Oregon
 = Commercial Dungeness crab



VS.



Which option is preferred?



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Overcapitalization

- **More capital (boats, permits, gear) than needed to harvest yield**
- **Some Tri-State industry interest in reducing**
- **Potential approaches**
 - **Permit buyback**
 - **Full season pot limit reduction**
 - **Tri-State pot limit**
 - Example – one boat with WA 300 and OR 500 pot permits limited to 650 total pots
 - **Permit stacking with pot limit reduction**
 - Example – one boat with two OR 500 pot permits limited to 750 total pots
 - **Others?**



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Derelict Gear

- **Compare retrieval programs across states**
 - In-season and post-season allowances
 - Permitted programs
- **Idea sharing and lessons learned**
- **ODCAC feedback**
 - What has worked well in Oregon?
 - What has not?
 - How can we improve while keeping industry in lead?



West Coast Take Reduction Team (TRT)

- **Scope**

- **3 marine mammal stocks:** Central America/Southern Mexico humpback whales, Mainland Mexico humpback whales, Eastern North Pacific blue whales
- **5 fisheries:** Federal sablefish pot, CA D crab, **OR D crab**, WA D crab, CA spot prawn

- **Take Reduction Team**

- Responsible for developing a Take Reduction Plan (TRP)
 - NMFS will establish team by Oct 31, 2025 and convene first meeting by Nov 30, 2025
 - Teams consist of reps from the fishing industry, state and federal fishery managers, scientists, NGOs, etc.
 - Under MMPA, TRT will have 6 months to develop a draft plan
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- CP process will continue concurrently & CP activities will likely be folded into the TRP
 - Anticipating additional updates from NMFS at OEAC and Tri-State



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Public comment