



## Meeting Summary

# Oregon Entanglement Advisory Committee

October 12, 2022, 9am – 12pm

### Attendance

**ODFW facilitators:** Caren Braby, Troy Buell, Kelly Corbett, Brittany Harrington

**Present members:** Aaron Ashdown, Cari Brandberg, Casey Bushnell, John Calambokidis, Susan Chambers, Bob Eder, Ben Enticknap, Clint Funderburg, Sheila Garber, Michael Giles, Amanda Gladics, Scott Hartzell, Gway Kirchner, Ron Mason, Tim Novotny, Joy Primrose, Jim Rice, Leigh Torres, Heather VanMeter, Colleen Weiler

**NMFS advisors:** Justin Greenman, Dan Lawson

**Non-members:** Cody Chase, Dave Colpo, Jon Gonzalez, Dennis Heinemann, Greg Krutzikowsky, Hugh Link, Rahul Kumar Nalubandhu, John North, Natalia Novikova, Tony Pettis, Fran Recht, Lauren Saez, Lorna Wargo

### Introduction (slides 2-6 of the [meeting presentation](#))

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) convened the first meeting of the Oregon Entanglement Advisory Committee (OEAC) on October 12, 2022. ODFW described the role of the new OEAC relative to the previous work done by the Oregon Whale Entanglement Working Group (OWEWG). Since OWEWG was formed in 2017, the entanglement issue has evolved. More is known about addressing entanglements, and all three states have taken steps to reduce entanglement risk and develop Conservation Plans (CPs) in support of Incidental Take Permit (ITP) applications under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). ODFW's advisory needs have changed as well, and OEAC will fill a specific role outlined in Oregon's CP by advising ODFW on CP implementation.

ODFW provided further detail on the specific role of OEAC and briefly introduced orientation materials (compiled on ODFW's [entanglement webpage](#)), which provide background information on the entanglement issue and efforts being taken to address it in Oregon and across the West Coast.

### Recent Entanglement Record (slides 8-11)

ODFW reviewed 2022 entanglements that have occurred to-date on the West Coast and in Oregon, and how that compares to the entanglement record since 2013. The group discussed the recent entanglements and the process that takes place when an entanglement occurs. NMFS advisors described how gear is documented and attributed to fisheries. Several members expressed interest in being able to see the gear involved in unidentified entanglements in person, or at least see more photos and documentation, because the group has expertise to help identify gear.

## **Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit (slides 12-22)**

ODFW described the factors that contribute to elevated entanglement levels and Oregon's vision as it relates to this issue. ODFW provided an update on the Oregon CP and ITP application status, including coordination efforts, regulatory actions, and CP development.

ODFW provided an overview of the upcoming three-year evaluation of Oregon's primary risk reduction measures (i.e., 20% pot limit reduction, 40 fathom depth restriction, and late-season tag requirement beginning May 1 each season). These measures were implemented in the 2020-21 crab season with a three-year sunset date. ODFW will be evaluating the effectiveness of these measures and providing recommendations to either continue or adjust the regulations to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in spring 2023.

ODFW then introduced Oregon's plan and objectives for implementation of line marking in the crab fishery by the 2023-24 season. ODFW described the line marking coordination that has taken place between the West Coast states over the past few years, including development of shared Tri-State goals for line marking. ODFW provided a high-level overview and key take-homes of a forensic analysis that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted of gear (i.e., recovered and photo documentation) involved in recent entanglements and the potential for detection of line marks. ODFW shared the current Tri-State line marking strawman proposal, which includes a two-color marking scheme (one fishery color and one state color) designed to meet Tri-State's goals, increase positive gear attributions, and enable negative attributions to be made. The group proceeded to discuss the effectiveness and tradeoffs associated with various line marking options. Members expressed concern over the cost and potential environmental impacts and asked for more information on effectiveness from other fisheries where it has been implemented or extensions of the NMFS forensic gear analysis.

ODFW described Oregon's plans and objectives for a surface gear limit to be implemented in the crab fishery by the 2023-24 season. ODFW also provided an overview of an electronic monitoring (EM) pilot project that is currently taking place, as a step towards implementation of EM in the crab fishery no later than the 2030-31 crab season. The group was generally supportive of these concepts but there was minimal discussion.

## **Review of Outreach Documents**

ODFW briefly introduced several outreach materials that are in development and, due to limited time, asked that members provide any feedback about the materials after the meeting. Materials included a revised Oregon Best Practices Directive for minimizing entanglement risk in the crab fishery, a new fleet advisory to notify fishers and recommend actions when elevated covered species presence is observed off Oregon, and planned revisions to Oregon's Frequently Asked Questions document about entanglements.

## **Public Comment**

ODFW staff provided time for public comments, but none were made. ODFW staff wrapped up the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and relaying that a meeting summary

will be provided to the group soon along with a scheduling poll for a meeting in early 2023. Follow-up questions can be provided via email, to the full OEAC listserv or directly to ODFW staff, depending on preference.