

Exhibit (B)

**Public Correspondence received as of
August 29, 2019.**

From: [Michelle Tate](#)
To: [Kelly Corbett](#); [April H Mack](#)
Cc: [Buell, Troy](#); [Caren Braby](#)
Subject: FW: Whale Entanglement risk in Oregon crab gear
Date: Thursday, August 15, 2019 3:13:33 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: justinyager@gmail.com <justinyager@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2019 8:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Whale Entanglement risk in Oregon crab gear

Hi commission members

I'm writing with regards to the whale entanglement issue in Oregon crab gear. My family is involved in the commercial crab fishery based out of Newport Oregon. We own three boats and have been in the fishery for 20 plus years. I've also been involved in the entanglement issue for the last few years. The issue has been looming for about a decade. I've been on the whale entanglement working group with Amanda Gladics and Kaety Jacobson from the beginning. I've also had numerous meetings and phone calls with Dan Lawson representing NOAA's marine mammals protected division.

I urge the commission to take this issue very seriously. From the beginning we have been told by NOAA that we need to come up with solutions or someone else will come up with a solution for us.

I ask the commission to urge Odfw staff to provide a range of options to address this issue.

We should consider Biology of whales and when they arrive on their summer feeding grounds, Crab biology and the economics of the crab fishery.

I hope we can make the best decision to address the issue that best suits the largest number of fishermen and the heart of the crab fishery.

I will be attempting to represent what is best for the crab fishery long term in the coming months. If anyone has any questions for me about what I know or don't know about the entanglement issue I'd be happy to talk. I can be reached at 541 991 0490. Or 541 574 0085. Or at Justinyager@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing the commission in the coming meetings. Thank you for your commitment and time Best Justin Sent from my iPhone

July 29, 2019

Kurt Melcher
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Way
Salem, Oregon 97302-1142

Re: Temporary rule change pertaining to crab pot removal

This letter is in regards to the temporary rule change for commercial crab permit holders eliminating the 2 week "cleanup period" requiring fishermen to have all their gear removed by August 14th instead of being allowed the following two weeks for removal.

I have a 200 pot permit and fish a 22' dory off the beach in Pacific City. There are limited days and times during those days that a dory can safely launch and land through the surf. Due to the limited capacity (6-10 pots), there have been years where I have used most of the 2 week period to remove my gear. By requiring to have the gear out by the 14th I will need to start pulling gear on the 1st of August thereby effectively reducing my season by 2 weeks. This will essentially eliminate my Labor Day market which in years past has been a lifesaver for my business.

This January there were thousands of pots between Cape Kiwanda and Cascade Head to the point that it was difficult to find a place to set gear. As of today there are less than 200 commercial pots in that same area. I have heard that there has been only one whale entanglement in Oregon and that was in January.

This rule change is unfair and has the potential of devastating economic impacts on the smallest of vessels with the least impact on the resource.

I would ask that vessels under 26' would be exempted from this rule until it can reviewed and the impacts on the small boat fleet can be fairly assessed.

Respectfully,

Craig Wenrick
F/V Sea Q
Sea Q Fish Ltd
Pacific City, Oregon

Cc: Oregon Crab Commission
Caren Braby
Senator Roblan
Senator Johnson
Representative Gomberg
Commissioner Yamamoto