



Exhibit C: Oregon's draft Conservation Plan to reduce risk of marine life entanglements in fishing gear

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Overview of Oregon's Draft Conservation Plan (CP)

- Commission role today
- CP overview
 - General background & approach
 - CP content
 - Scope, goals, objectives
 - Accountability measures
 - Risk reduction measures
 - Monitoring & performance evaluation
 - Adaptive management

Oregon Vision



Aligned management & conservation goals
allow co-existence of
economically viable commercial crab fishery and
recovering ESA-listed marine life populations



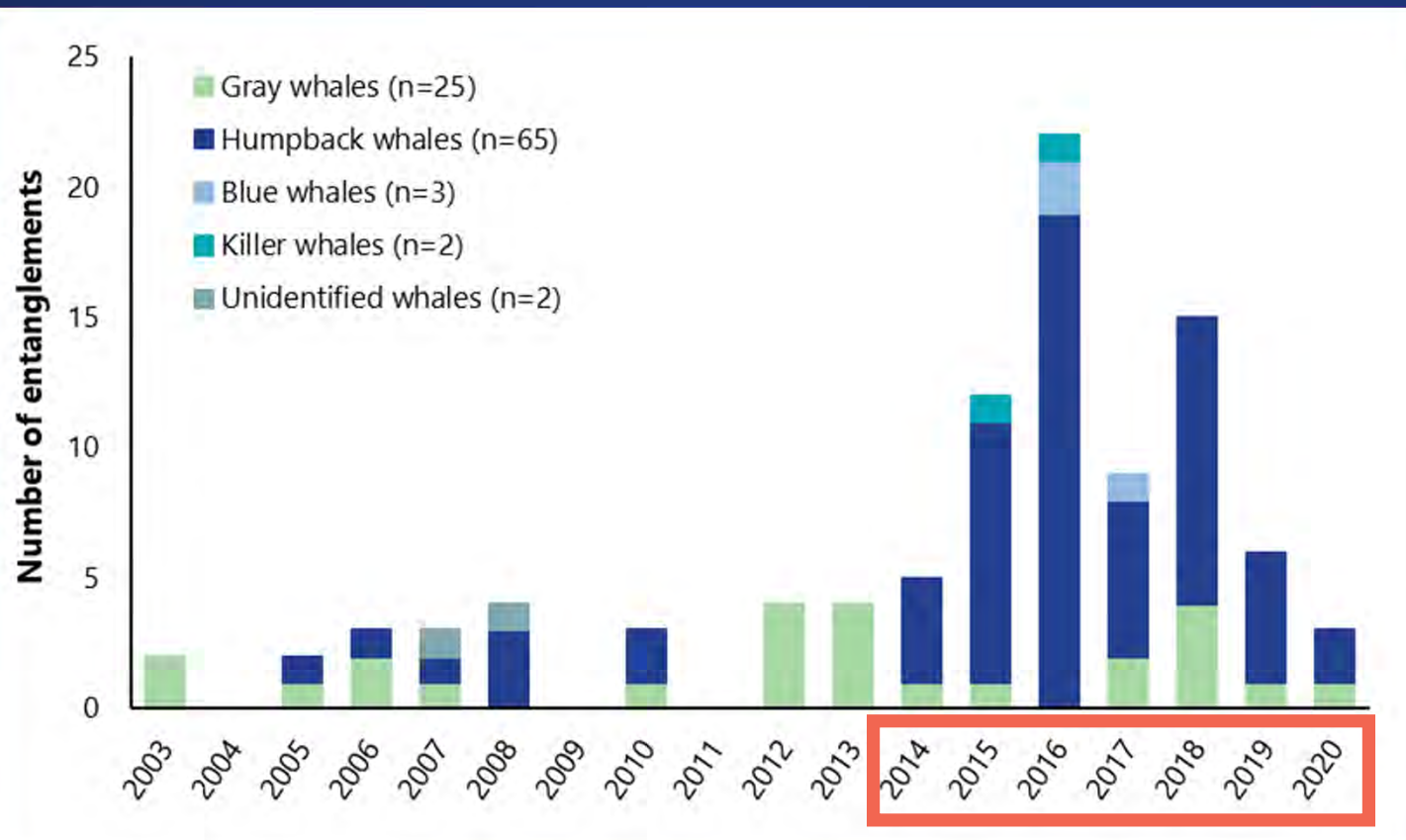
Dungeness crab legal framework

- Oregon regulations (OARs) govern crab fishery
 - Accountability (9/2019) & risk reduction (9/2020)
- Tri-State agreement aligns WA/OR/CA management
 - Pre-season testing
 - Reduce risk of whale entanglement
 - Biotoxin management
- Federal law is an umbrella
 - State management ***must comply with federal law***
 - Federal: Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Conservation Plan (CP) legal mechanism for non-federal entities to describe mitigation plan for ESA take
 - ***Entanglement is ESA take***



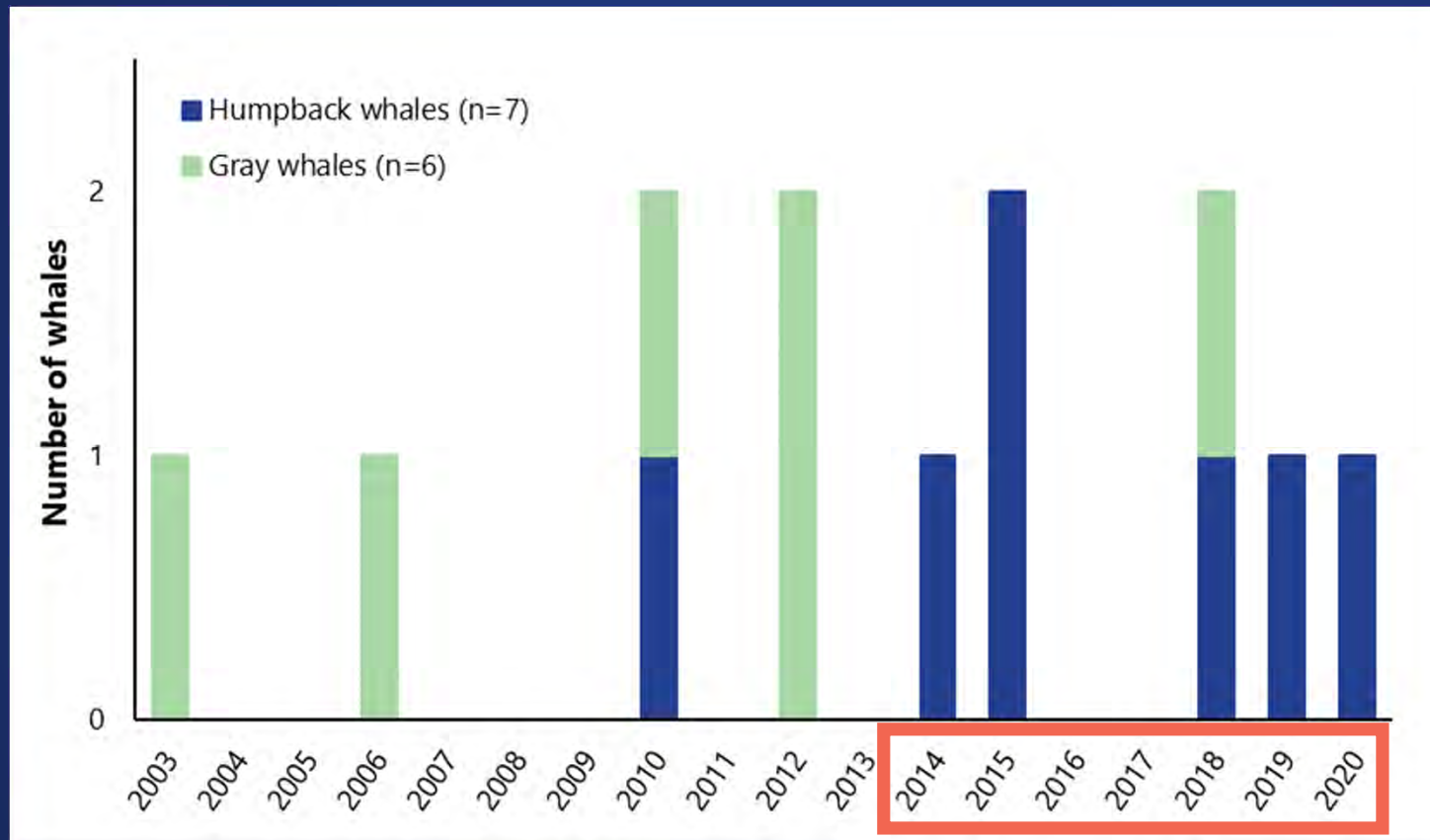
Photo: ODFW

Dungeness crab gear whale entanglements (West Coast)



- Increase in confirmed entanglements since 2014 (97 total)
- Driven largely by humpback whales

Dungeness crab gear whale entanglements (Oregon)



- 13 confirmed entanglements in Oregon crab gear
- Recent interactions are humpbacks
 - All presumed to be ESA-listed

CP General Approach & Timeline



1. Research & monitoring (2010-present)
 - Co-occurrence of whales & gear (mapping & modeling)
2. Education & awareness (2015-present)
3. State regulations (ocean commercial) (1984-present)
 - Fishery effort, gear limitation, derelict gear & biotoxins
 - Accountability & risk reduction
4. Federal CP & Incidental Take Permit (2019-present)
 - ***CP packages up state regs, proposes incidental take, adaptive management, monitoring plan***



CP DRAFT

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Covered activities, fishery description
3. *Environmental setting, covered species*
4. *Potential biological impacts, take assessment*
5. Conservation program (management of risk & take)
6. Plan implementation
7. Funding
8. Alternatives
9. References

Covered action and species

Action: Ocean commercial Dungeness crab fishery
Incidental Take Permit term: 20 years

Species/stock	Anticipated take
Humpback whale (CA/OR/WA stock)	Up to two animals per year
Blue whale	Up to one animal every five years
Leatherback sea turtle	Up to one animal every ten years

CP DRAFT

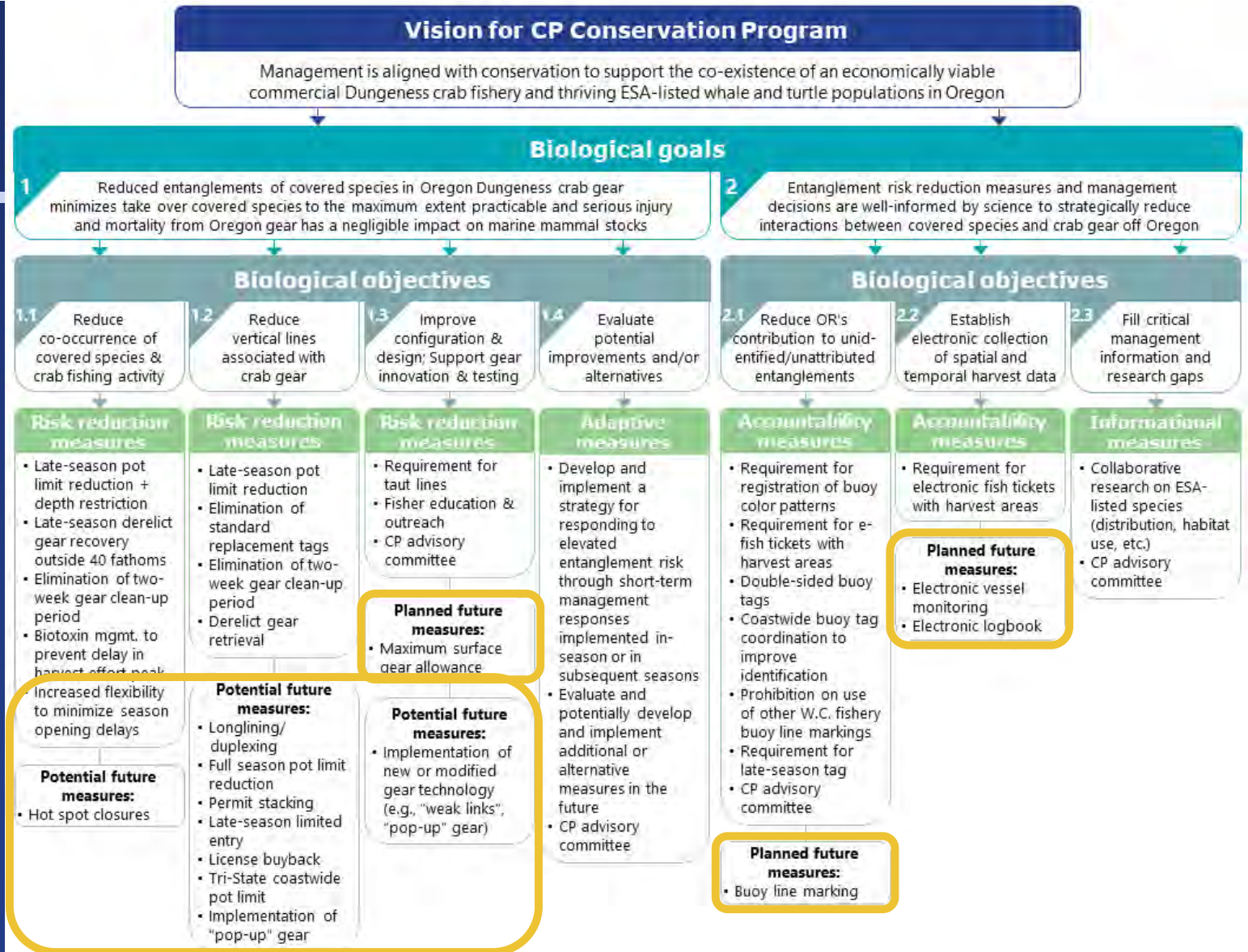
Sections

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Section 5

Conservation Program

(Sec 5.2, p. 75)



Conservation Program: Risk reduction (co-occurrence)

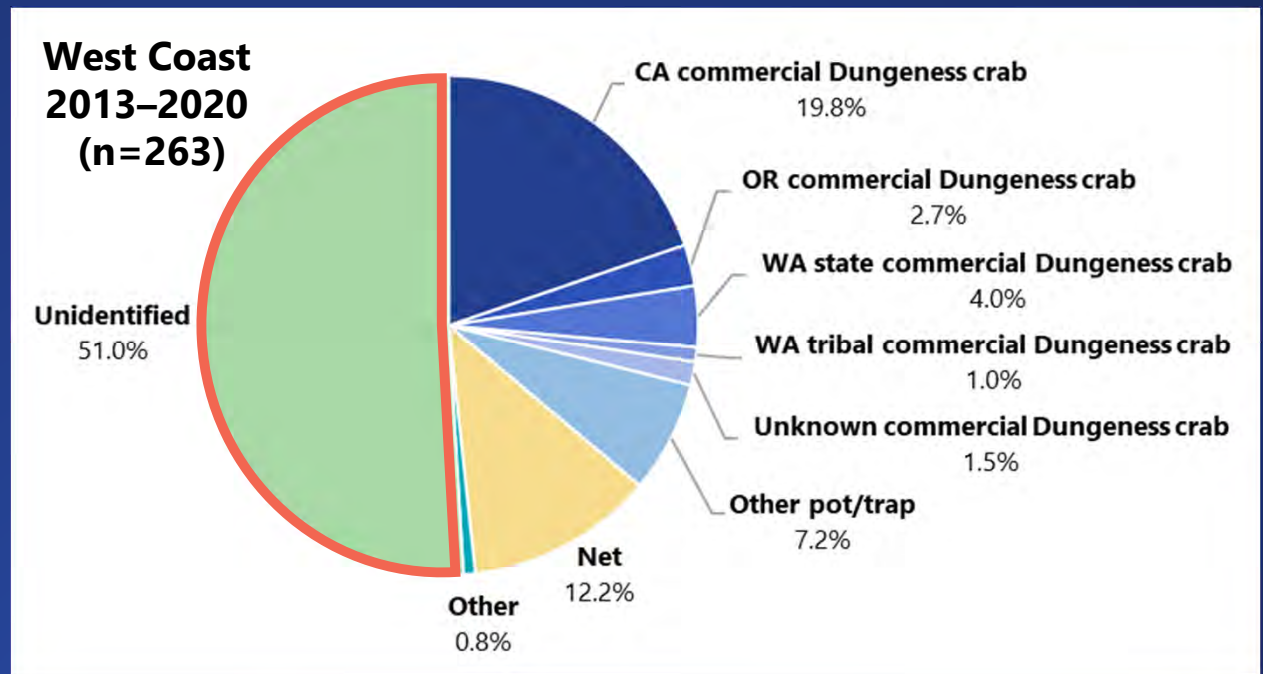
- Primary risk reduction measures:
 - Reduce pot limits May 1 by 20%; gear excluded outside 40 fathoms; season tag. (*Package has 3-year sunset, 2023*)
- Additional risk reduction measures:
 - Elimination of replacement tags
 - Elimination of 2-week gear clean-up period (post-season)
 - Taut line provisions
 - Reduction of meat yield criteria
 - Prohibit gear markings from other states
 - Derelict gear removal provisions (pre-existing)

(OFWC 2020)

(Sec 5.3)

Conservation Program: Accountability

- Improved gear marking (all fixed gear, sectors)
- Electronic fish tickets with harvest areas

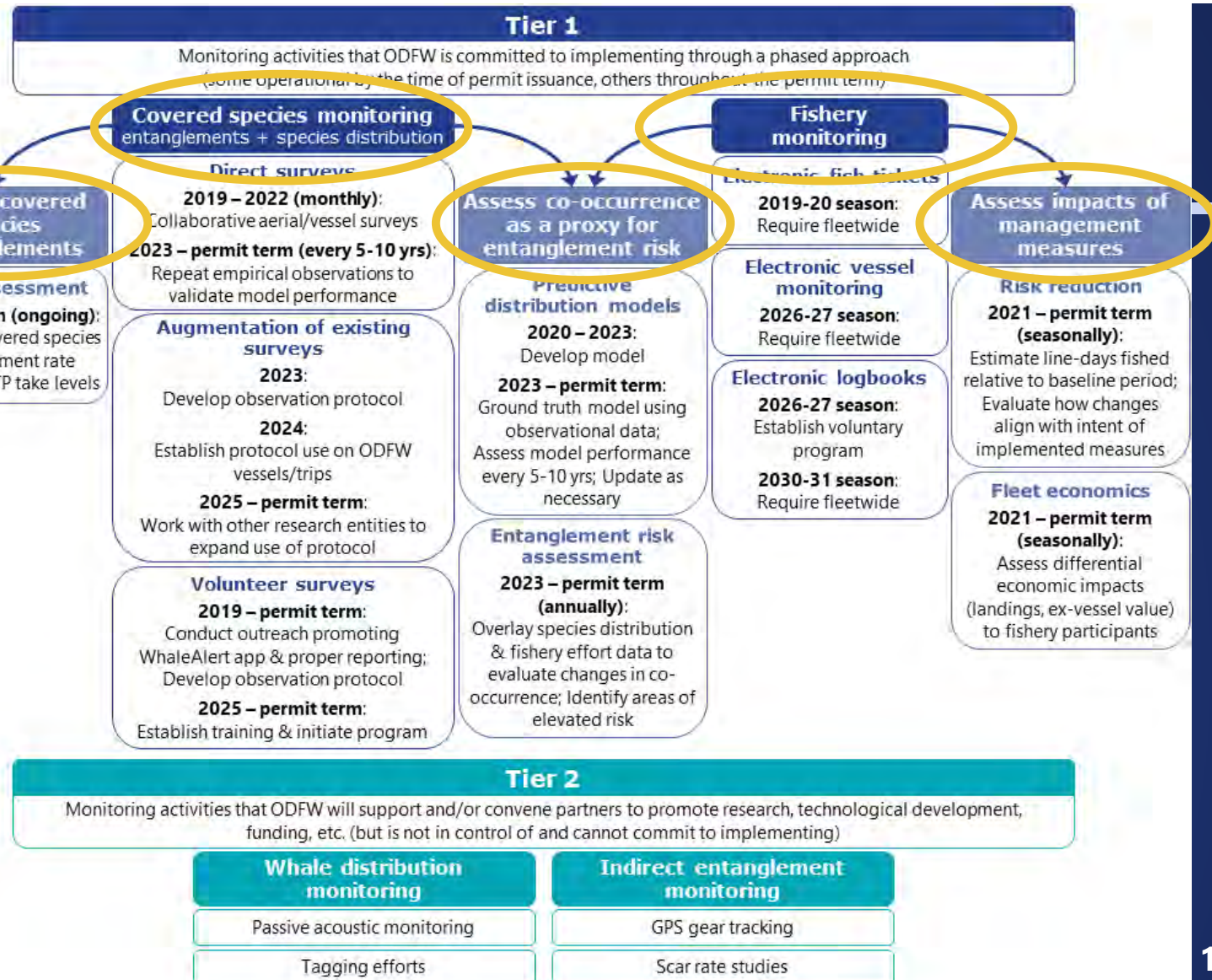


(OFWC 2019)

(Sec 5.3)

Conservation Program

Monitoring Plan



(Sec 5.4, p. 98)

Conservation Program: New Commitments

- (Sec 5.3) • Risk reduction improvement
 - Maximum surface gear allowance by 2022-2023
- (Sec 5.3) • Accountability improvement
 - Line marking by 2025-2026
- (Sec 5.3/4) • Monitoring improvements
 - Vessel tracking by 2025-2026
 - Electronic logbooks by 2026-2027
 - Co-occurrence and entanglements monitoring by 2024
- (Sec 5.6) • Adaptive management
 - Short-term responses to elevated risk
 - Long-term development of potential future measures
 - Advisory committees (including industry)

CP DRAFT

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Section 8 Alternatives

Alternative approaches considered:

- No action (must be considered)
- Alternative measures to reduce risk
- Shorten the season
- Close the fishery (must be considered) **

Alternative measures, that could be developed include:

- Long-lining
- Pop-up ("ropeless") gear
- Permit stacking
- Late season limited entry (control date established by OFWC 9/2019)
- Buy-back
- Tri-State coastwide pot limit
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) or "hotspot" closures **

Commission role

Today:

- Consideration of CP, public comment
 - Provide feedback, as desired

In future:

- Consideration of previously-adopted regulations
 - Continuation or modification (sunset in 2023)
- Consideration of additional regulations
 - Planned CP measures: Line-marking, vessel tracking, maximum allowance of surface gear
 - Results of CP/NEPA/ITP process: Regulations if necessary per NOAA Fisheries approval



Questions?

Photo by Greg Krutzikowsky, ODFW