

December 10, 2021

Ms. Mary Wahl, Chair  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

RE: Public Forum: Investigating the Potential for an Electronic Logbook for Oregon's Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery

Dear Chair Wahl and Commission Members:


My name is Gway Kirchner and I am the Marine Fisheries Project Director for The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy). I am pleased to present to you a project that we have conducted to explore the potential for an electronic logbook for Oregon's commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

Modernizing the collection of fishery data has long been a global priority for The Nature Conservancy. Utilizing tools, such as an electronic logbook, will improve the quality of data by automating the collection of data elements such as location and catching errors in the data at the time of entry. It will streamline data entry and provide for near-real time information available to fishery managers, improving the sustainability of the fishery, which is increasingly important in the face of climate change.

We began exploring the development of an electronic logbook for Oregon's commercial Dungeness crab fishery in 2019, with the goal of collecting information and perspectives that can inform the creation of a future logbook prototype. The project entailed extensive research, a survey of the fishing fleet and many one-on-one interviews and dialogues with agency representatives, fishermen, and logbook developers. The results of this investigation are detailed in a report titled "*Investigating the Potential for an Electronic Logbook for Oregon's Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery*," which we are pleased to formally submit to you and the agency today.

We hope this report will serve as a useful resource and platform for future logbook discussions for the Dungeness crab fishery. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.

Sincerely,



Gway Kirchner  
Marine Fisheries Project Director  
The Nature Conservancy