



Exhibit B: Commercial crab fishery regulations

September 13, 2024

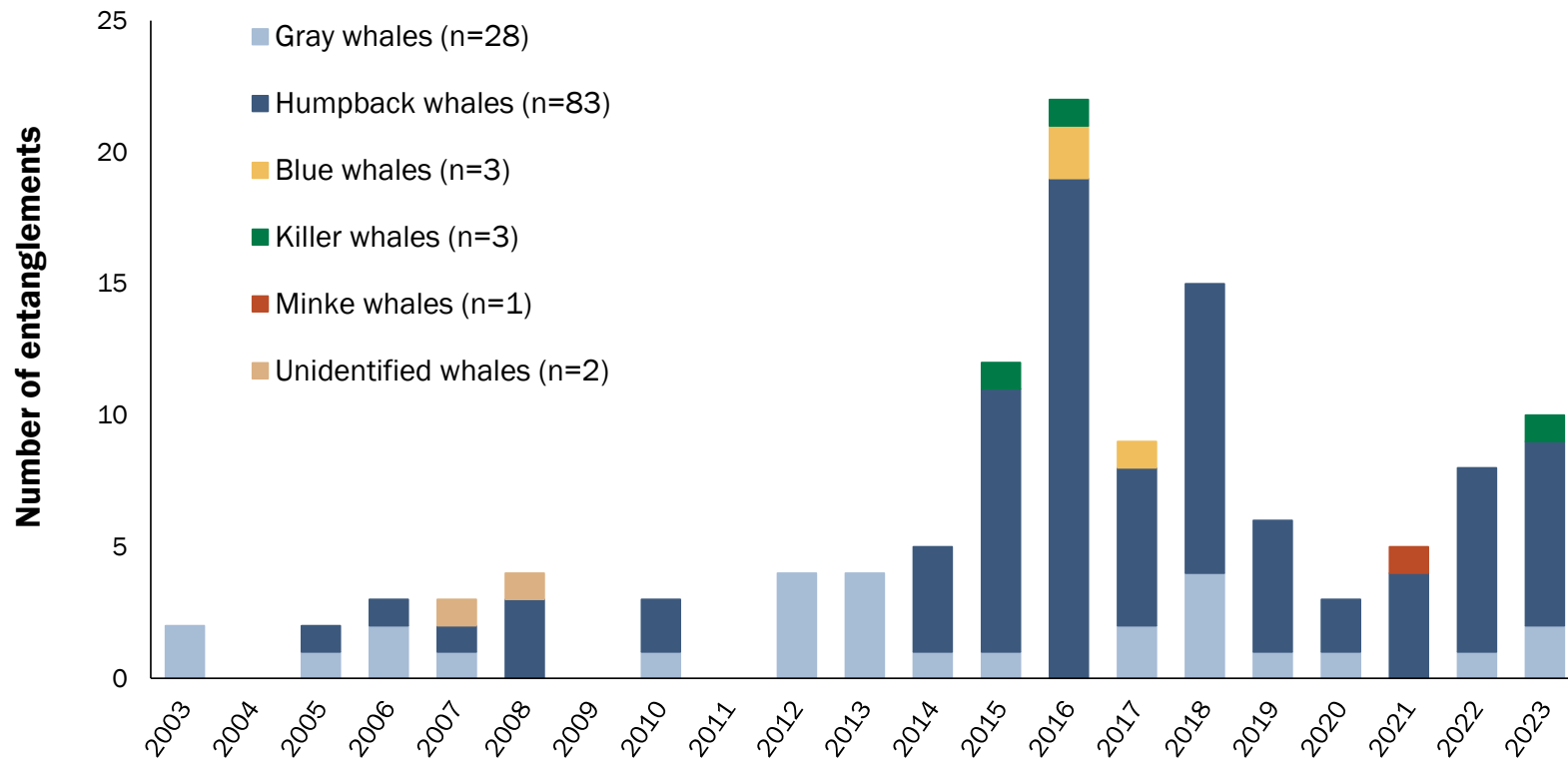
**Justin Ainsworth,
Marine Resources Program Manager**

**Brittany Harrington, Marine Life Entanglement Project Leader
Kelly Corbett, Commercial Crab Project Leader**



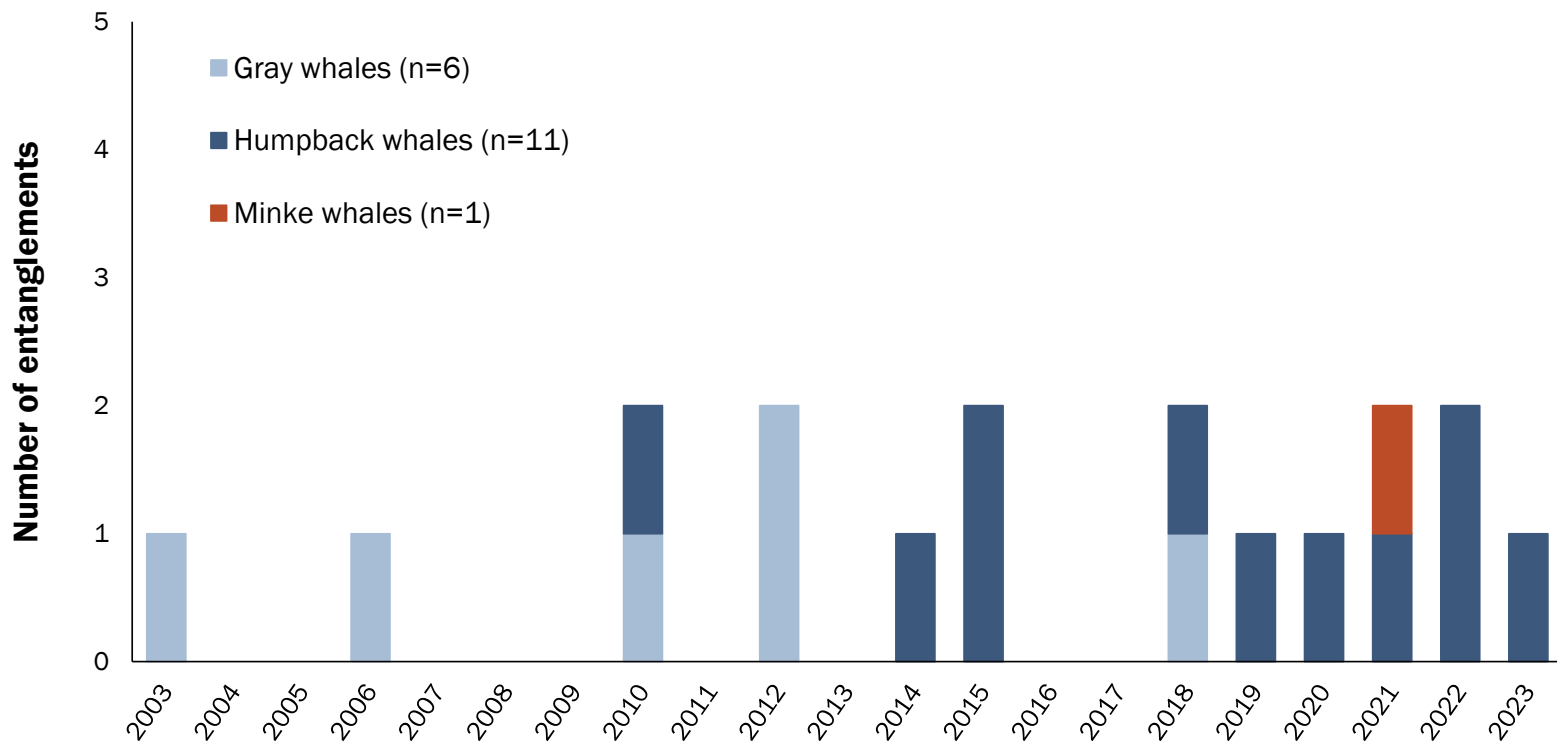
**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**

Whale entanglements in West Coast crab gear



Data: NMFS WCR Large Whale Entanglement Database, provided Jan 2024

Whale entanglements in Oregon crab gear



Data: NMFS WCR Large Whale Entanglement Database, provided Jan 2024

Why have entanglements increased?



Improved public awareness and reporting



Increasing humpback whale population



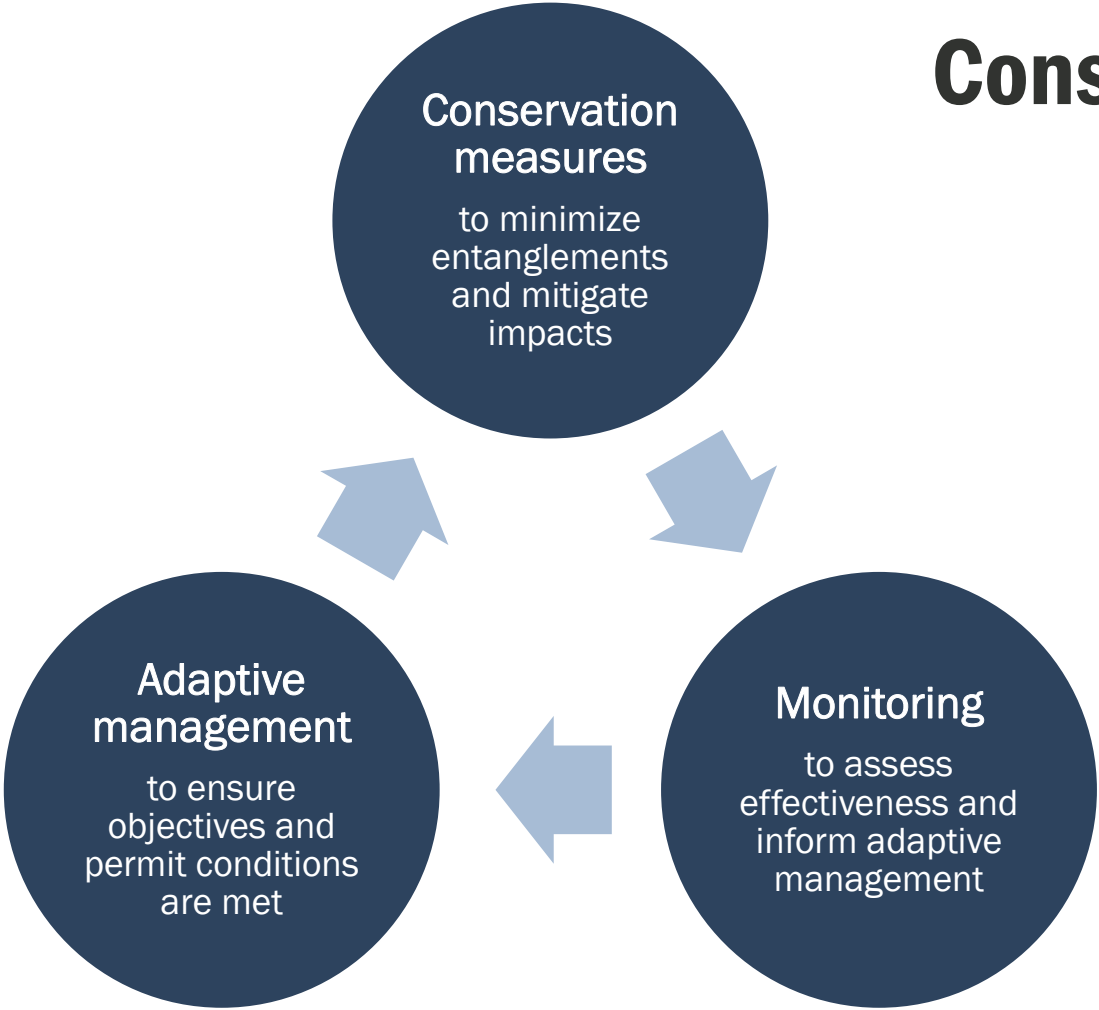
Complex ocean changes since 2014

Prey distribution and abundance

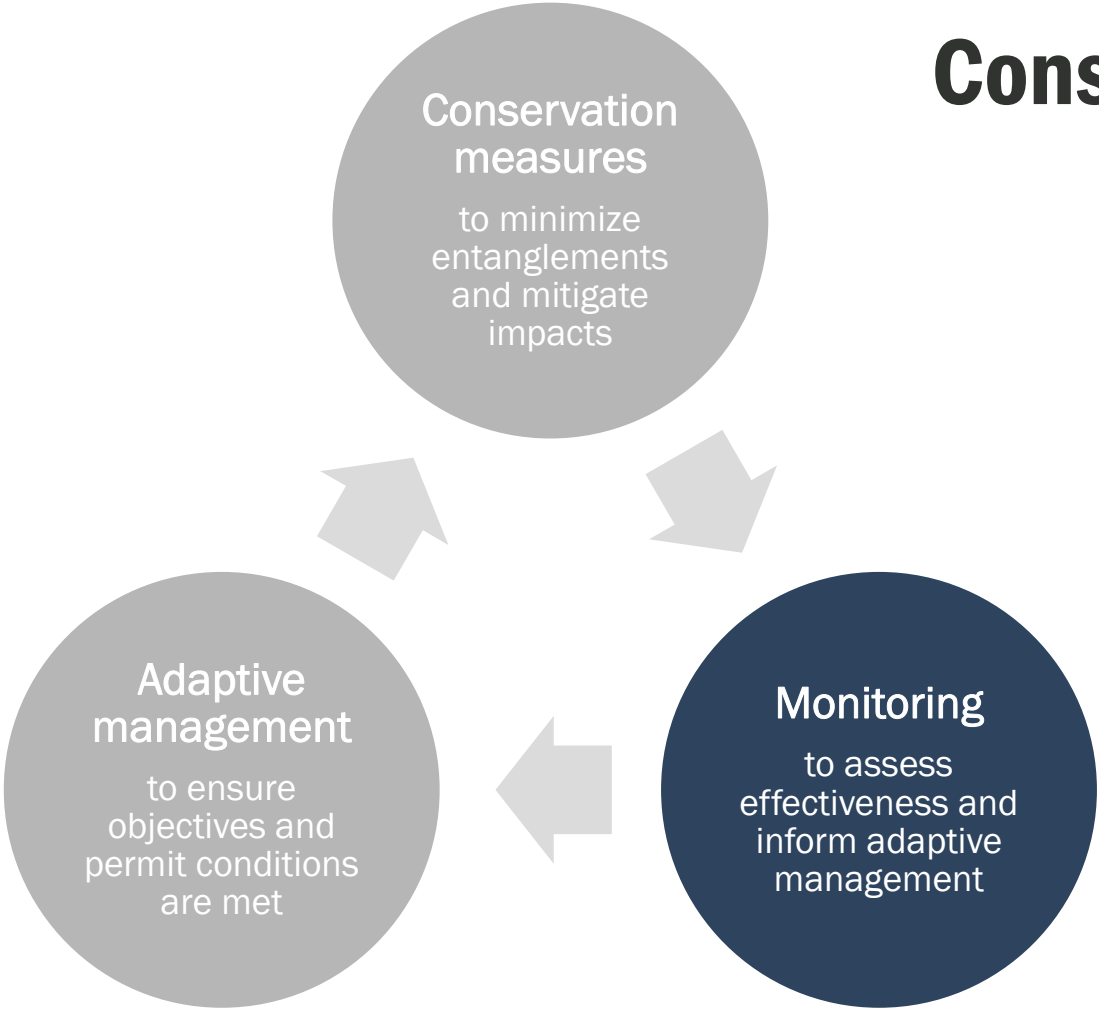
Humpback foraging locations

Crab distribution and biotoxin load

Conservation Plan Strategy



Conservation Plan Strategy



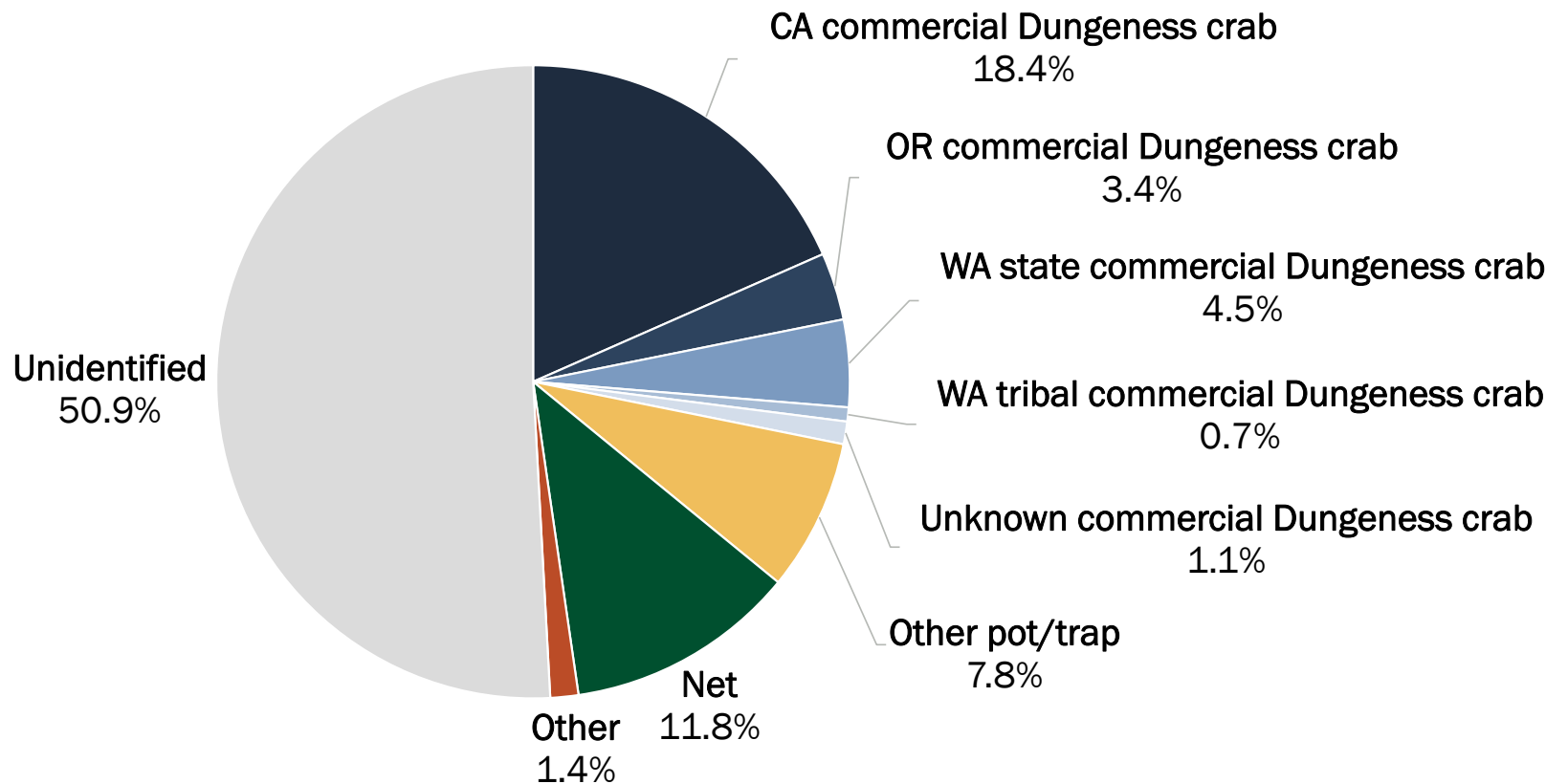
CaseID: 20211129Mn
NMFS MMHSRP Permit #: 18786-06



Issue 1: Marine Life Entanglement Fishery Identification Measures

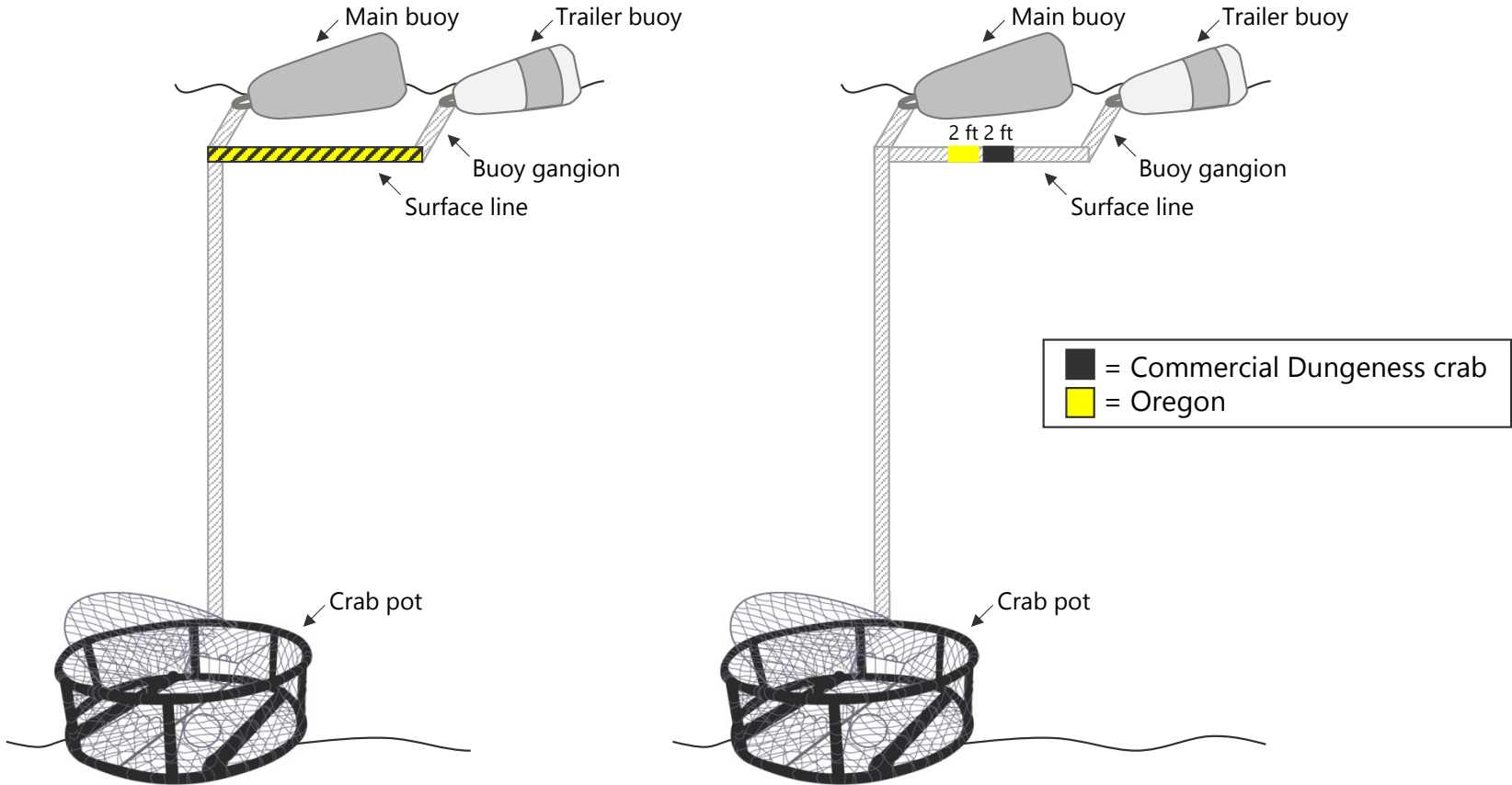


NMFS gear attribution for West Coast entanglements, 2013-2023 (n=348)



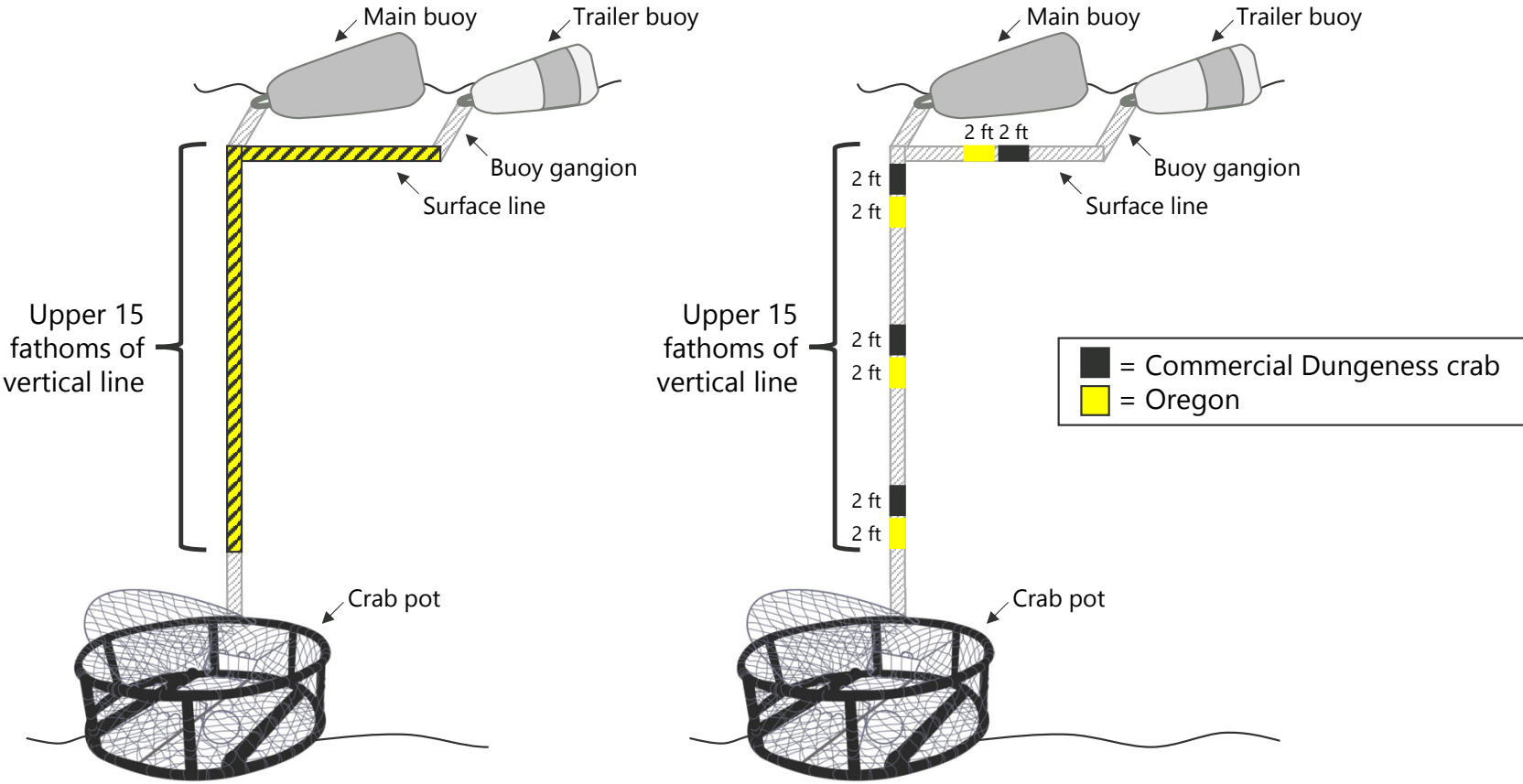
Data: NMFS WCR Large Whale Entanglement Database, provided Jan 2024

Phase 1: Surface line (2025-26 season)



**Transitional solid marking method
allowed through end of 2032-33 season**

Phase 2: Main line (2028-29 season)



Transitional solid marking method allowed through end of 2032-33 season

West Coast coordination



Color

Avoids commonly used colors
Provides strong contrast



Method

Clear and visible
Durable
Enforceable



Phasing & transitional method

Offset industry costs



California



Oregon



Washington

West Coast coordination



Placement

Strategic coverage limits marking to critical areas

Proportion of line marked increases throughout season



Expanded prohibitions in other fixed gear fisheries



California



Oregon



Washington



Issue 2: Season Opening and Operational Efficiency Measures



Revised Tri-State Preseason Testing Protocol



Strong industry support

Enhances posted results transparency

Adds cooked crab storage procedures

Removes legacy language

Clarifies CA's statutory restrictions



Closed area transit



Strong industry support

Temporary rule past 2 seasons

Vessel monitoring system required

Pre-registration and declarations required

Increases operational efficiency



In-season derelict gear recovery waivers



Strong industry support

Temporary rule past 3 seasons
Enhances efficiency of derelict gear recovery



Staff recommendations



Issue 1

Require dual-colored yellow & black line for all line between two buoys (excl. buoy gangions) by the 2025-26 crab season;

Require dual-colored yellow & black line for all line within 15 fathoms of the main buoy extending towards the crab pot by the 2028-29 season;

Allow sets of solid yellow and black marks to be substituted for dual-colored line through the end of the 2032-2033 season; and

Expand line marking prohibitions to all Oregon fixed gear fisheries.



Issue 2

Adopt minor changes to the Tri-State Protocol agreed to by the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee;

Allow commercial crab vessels to transit and deliver crab into certain closed areas if they carry active vessel monitoring devices; and

Enable the department to issue waivers exempting vessels under state contract from derelict gear retrieval limits.



Thank you!



**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**

