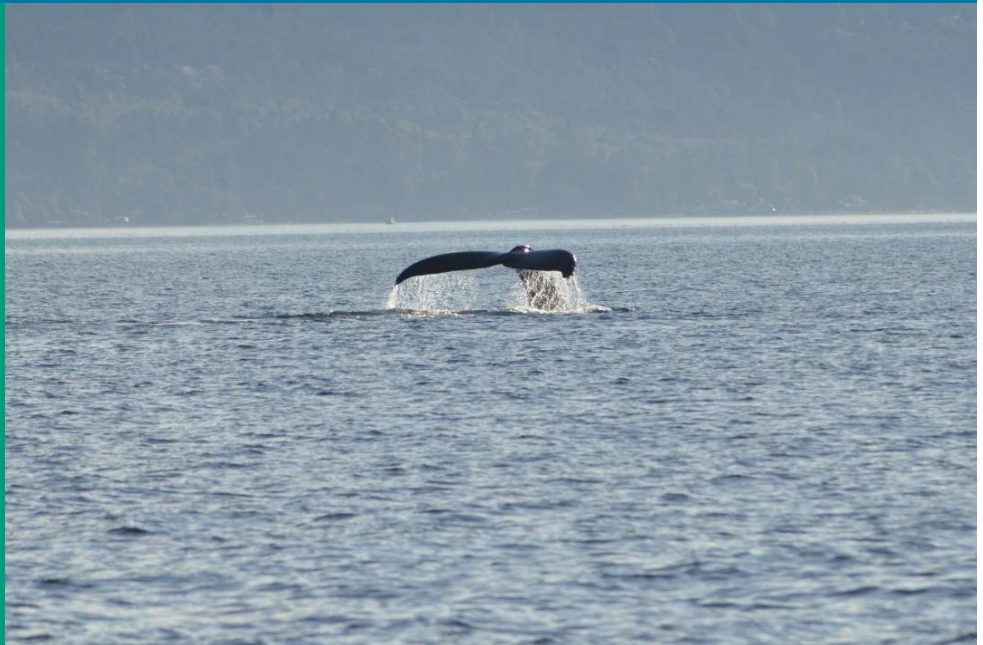


Humpback whale protections



Emergent Need

\$172,000 to protect humpback whales



Humpback whales migrate through Washington waters primarily from July to September when commercial crab fisheries are operating.

The Problem

Over the past four years, there has been an increase in humpback whales entangled fishing gear. This is happening throughout the West Coast due in large part to increasing whale populations, and also changing ocean conditions that affect the availability and distribution of their prey. Commercial crab pots can also unintentionally entangle whales.

The Solution

This bill would reduce the chance of humpback whale entanglements and provide regulatory certainty for the \$75 million* crab fishing industry. The funding would also fund a staff person to work with the Washington Whale Working Group to identify best management practices to reduce humpback whale entanglements in crab gear, coordinate regulatory proposals, and monitor fishery compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

*NOAA Fisheries Economics of the United States 2016

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