



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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February 19, 2021

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Participant:

As you know, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is in the process of developing a conservation plan (CP) for the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery. The CP is necessary to apply for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Last spring, WDFW met with industry members to share the progress on the CP development, including key plan components and the timeline for completion, and we heard your input on actions to avoid and reduce interactions with protected species. In December, WDFW again met with industry members to share a progress update, and we heard your thoughts on the plan's goals, objectives, and adaptive management approach. Though we do not yet have a complete draft for public dissemination, we will be briefing the Fish and Wildlife Commission on much the same content we discussed with you in December, including a progress update and an explanation of key plan components.

We invite you to join us for this briefing at the Fish and Wildlife Commission's virtual public meeting on February 25 -27, 2021. This agenda item is scheduled for Friday, February 26 at 1:15 PM, following the Commission's lunch break. Please note that agenda items may go quicker or take longer than anticipated. Details including the agenda, connection information, and instructions for how to submit your public comments can all be found at the following link on the Fish and Wildlife Commission's website:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings/2021/25february2021-fwc-agenda>.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me at 360-902-2487 or Heather.Hall@dfw.wa.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Hall
Intergovernmental Ocean Policy

cc: Dan Ayres
Victoria Knorr