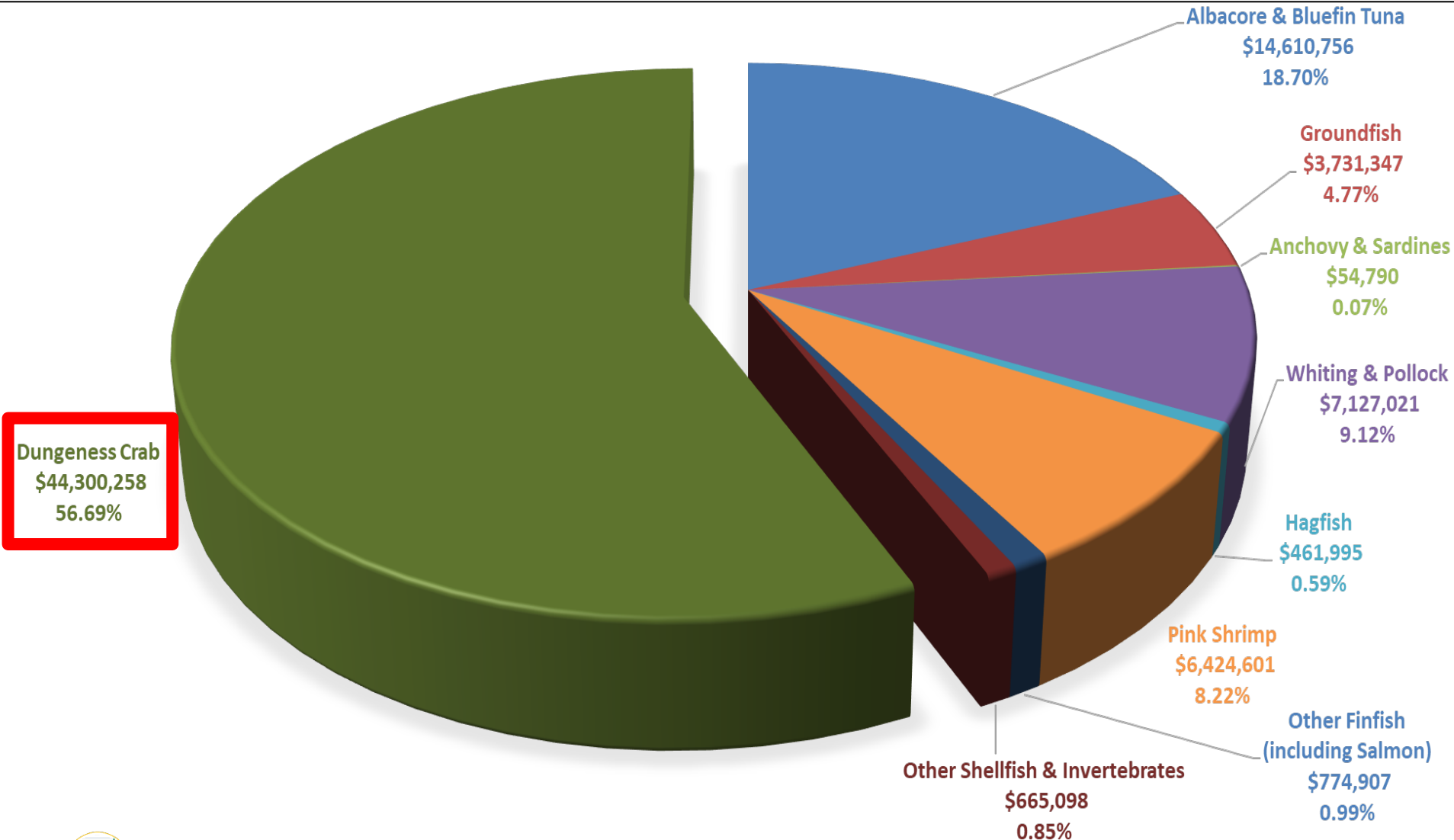


Briefing: Whale Entanglements in the Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery – WDFW Response

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
January 14, 2022
Heather Hall
Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager



Coastal Commercial Fisheries Value

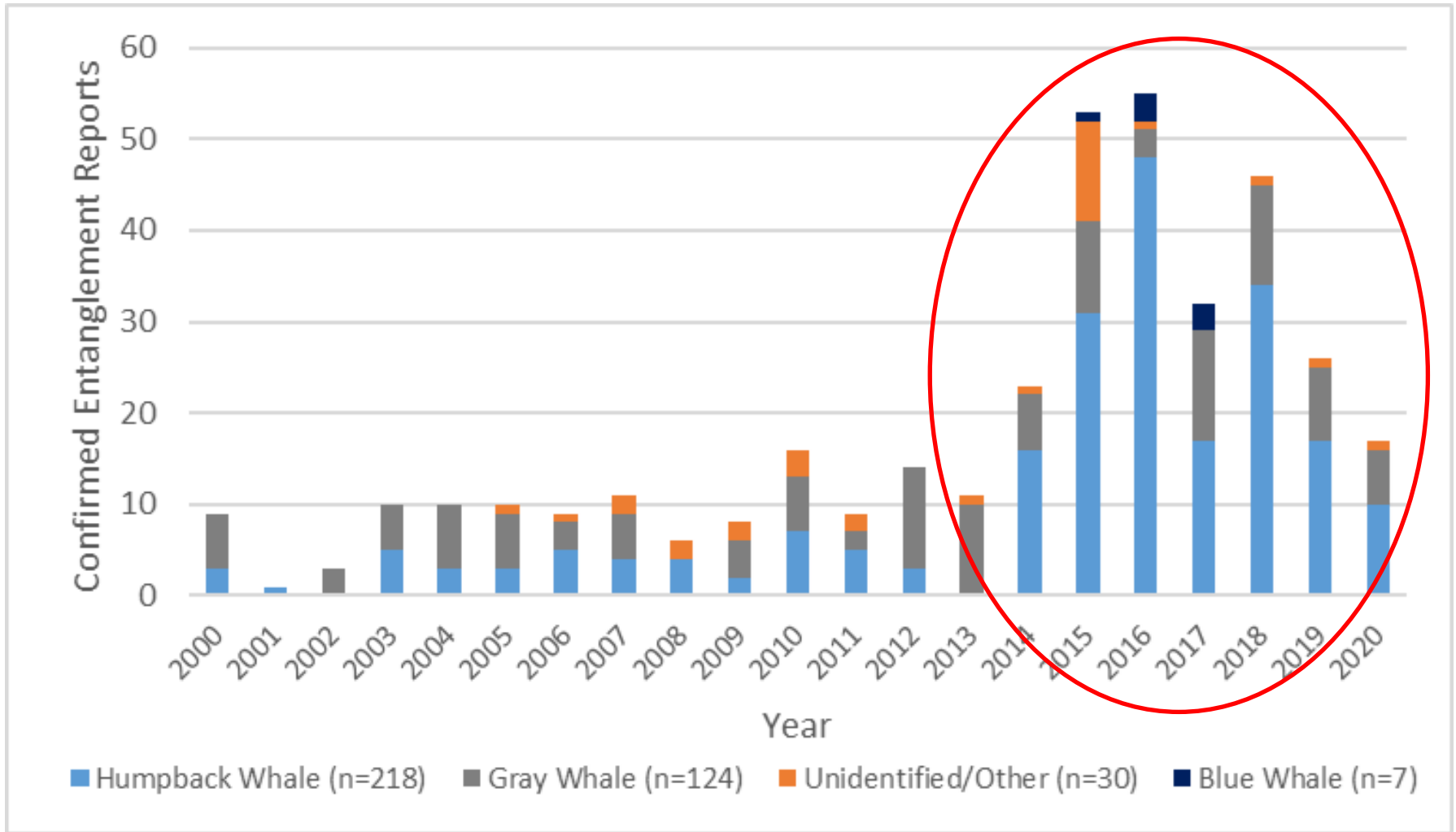


Background

- Since 2015, there has been an increase in entanglements off the U.S. West Coast, including off Washington, with coastal commercial Dungeness crab gear and marine life protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)



West Coast Entanglements



Source: 2020 NOAA Fisheries West Coast Whale Entanglement Summary

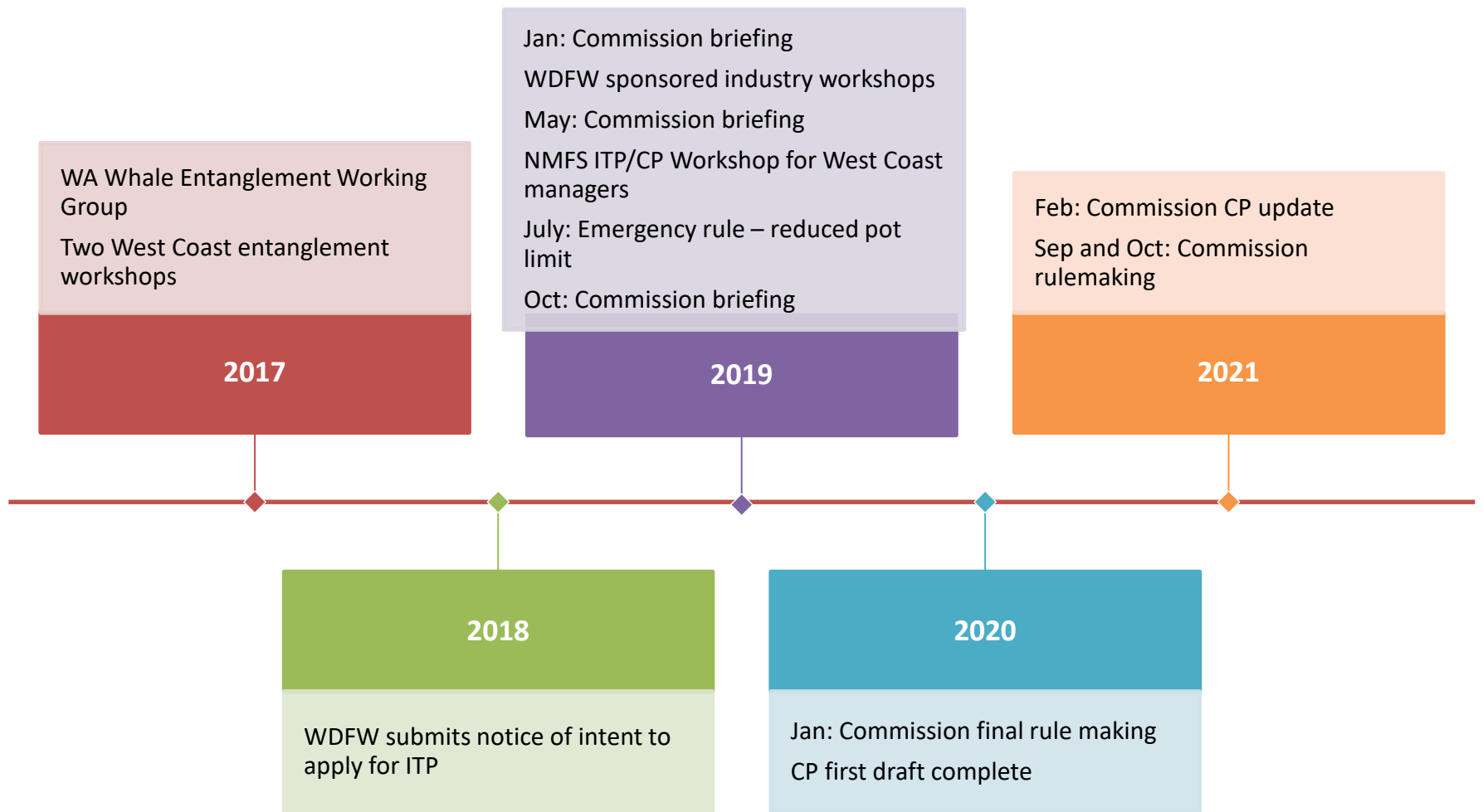


Background

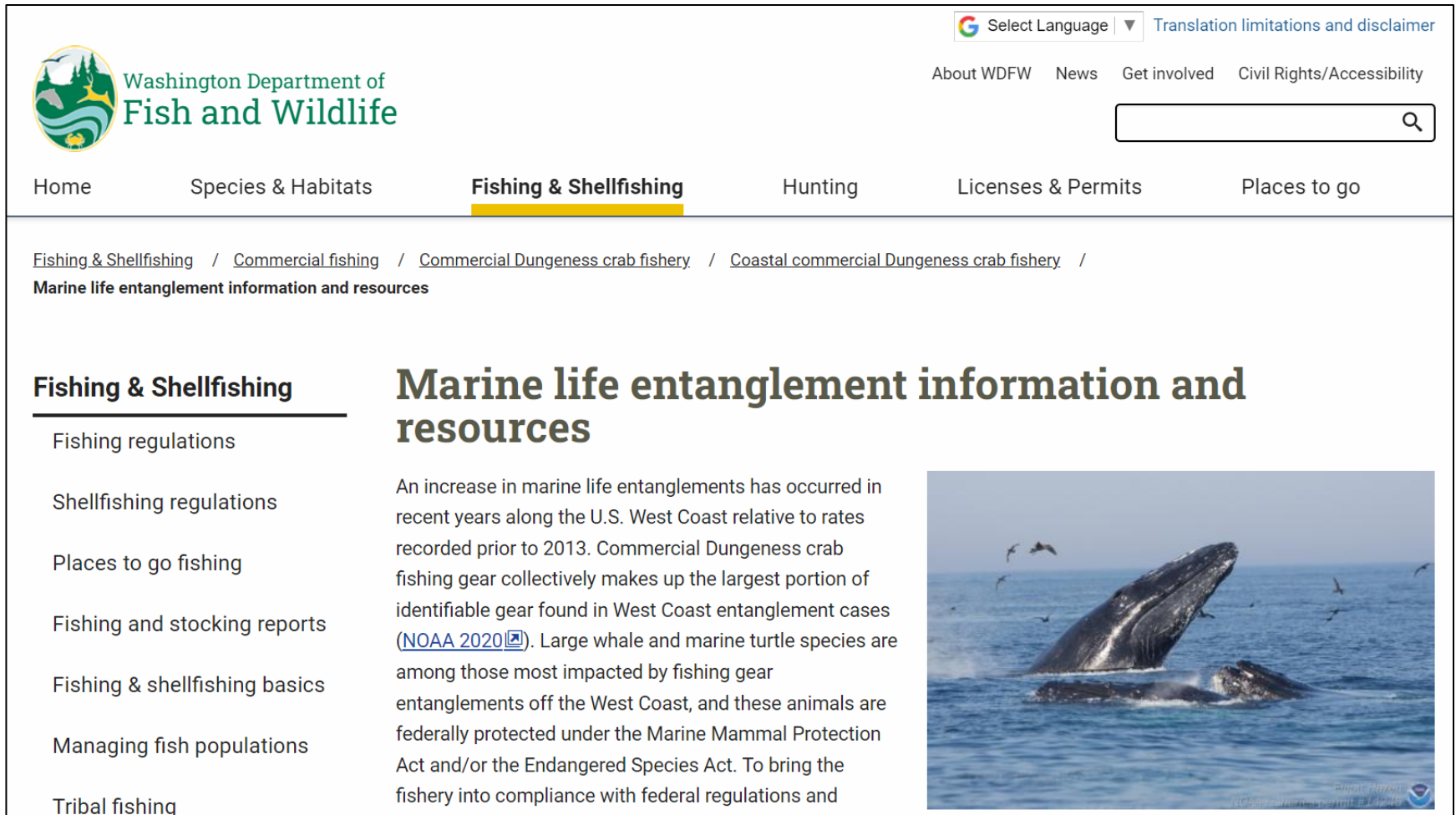
- To ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act, WDFW has indicated our intent to apply for an incidental take permit (ITP) under Section 10 of the ESA
- A conservation plan (CP) is the required first step in the process
- While WDFW staff began drafting the CP in 2019, response to increased entanglements began immediately



WDFW Actions To-Date



For more info:

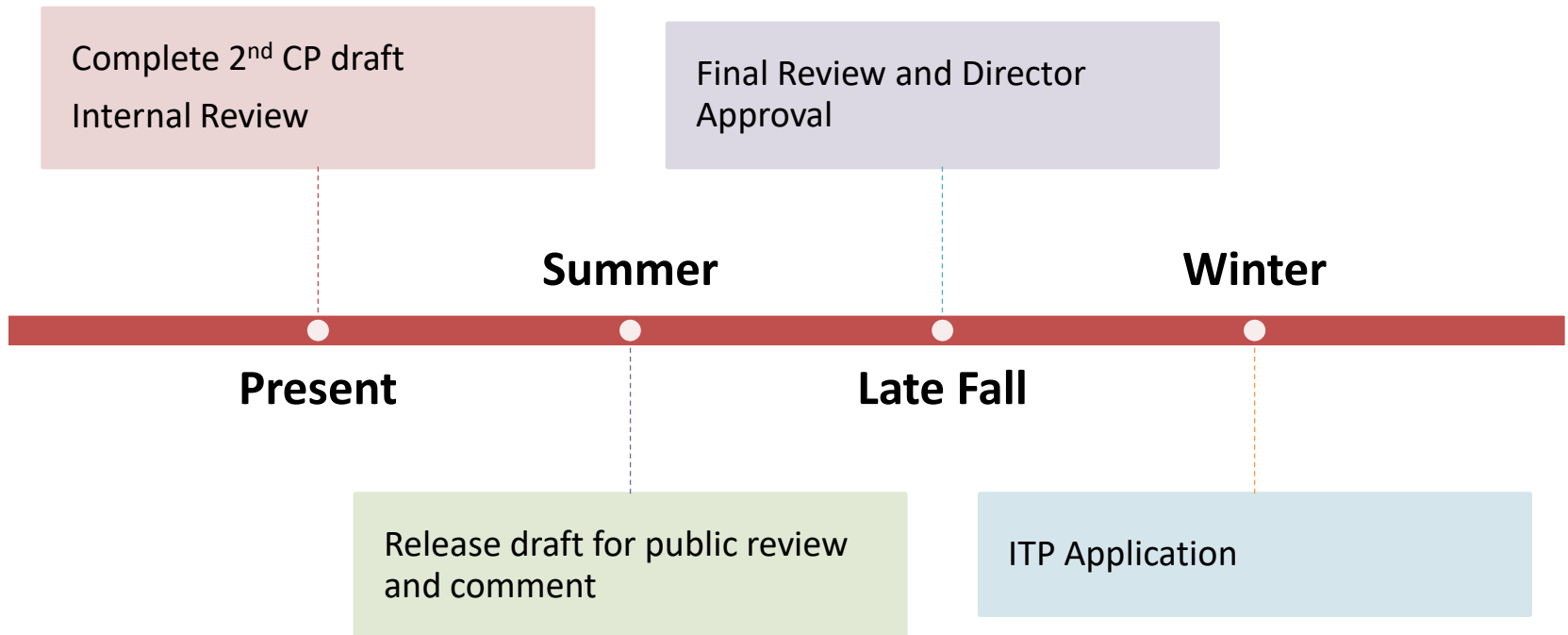


The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website. At the top left is the logo with the text "Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife". To the right are links for "Select Language", "Translation limitations and disclaimer", "About WDFW", "News", "Get involved", and "Civil Rights/Accessibility". A search bar is located on the right. The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Species & Habitats", "Fishing & Shellfishing" (highlighted), "Hunting", "Licenses & Permits", and "Places to go". The breadcrumb trail reads: "Fishing & Shellfishing / Commercial fishing / Commercial Dungeness crab fishery / Coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery / Marine life entanglement information and resources". The page title is "Marine life entanglement information and resources". On the left is a sidebar with links: "Fishing regulations", "Shellfishing regulations", "Places to go fishing", "Fishing and stocking reports", "Fishing & shellfishing basics", "Managing fish populations", and "Tribal fishing". The main content area contains the title "Marine life entanglement information and resources" and a paragraph: "An increase in marine life entanglements has occurred in recent years along the U.S. West Coast relative to rates recorded prior to 2013. Commercial Dungeness crab fishing gear collectively makes up the largest portion of identifiable gear found in West Coast entanglement cases (NOAA 2020). Large whale and marine turtle species are among those most impacted by fishing gear entanglements off the West Coast, and these animals are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and/or the Endangered Species Act. To bring the fishery into compliance with federal regulations and". To the right of the text is a photograph of a whale breaching the ocean surface with birds flying in the sky.

url: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/marine-entanglements>



2022 CP Timeline & Targets



Questions

