

Coastal Dungeness Crab Industry Meeting

September 12, 2024

2:00 – 4:00 PM



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

Proposed Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
2:00 – 2:10 PM	Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting	Lorna Wargo
2:10 – 2:20 PM	General crab updates	Lorna Wargo
2:20 – 2:30 PM	Large whale entanglements	Megan Hintz
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Line marking rule proposal & discussion	Megan Hintz
3:30 – 3:45 PM	Questions	Lorna Wargo
3:45 – 3:55 PM	Adjourn	Lorna Wargo

Updates

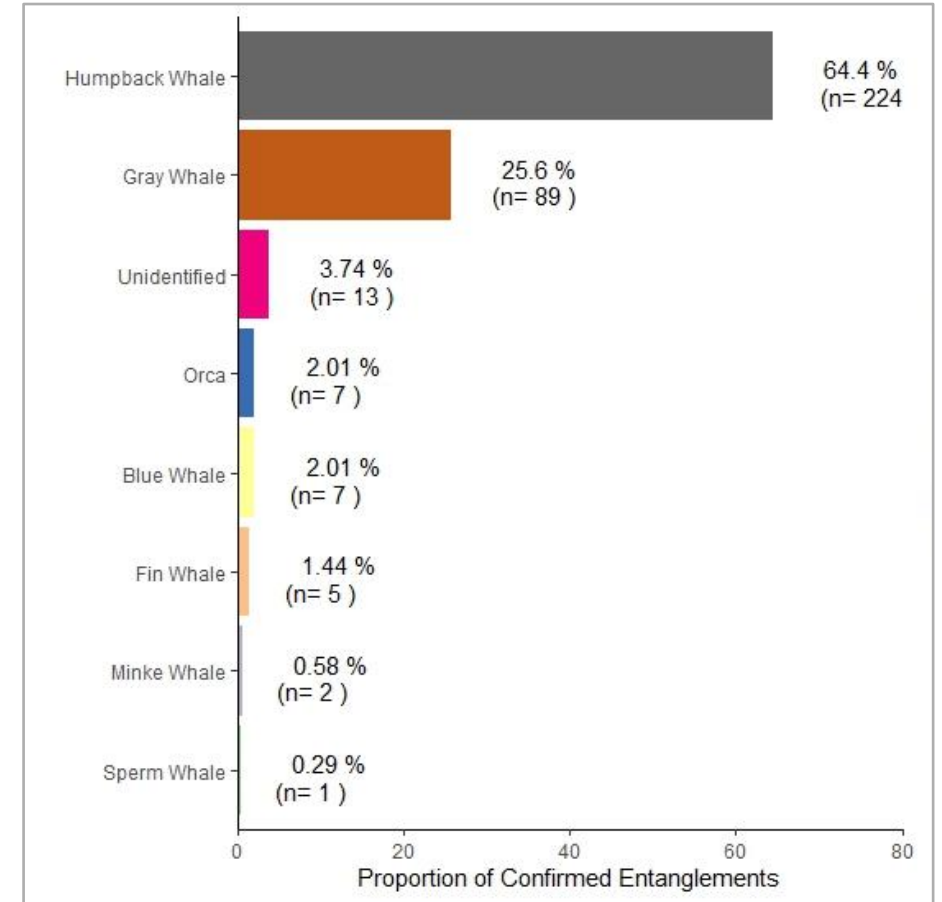
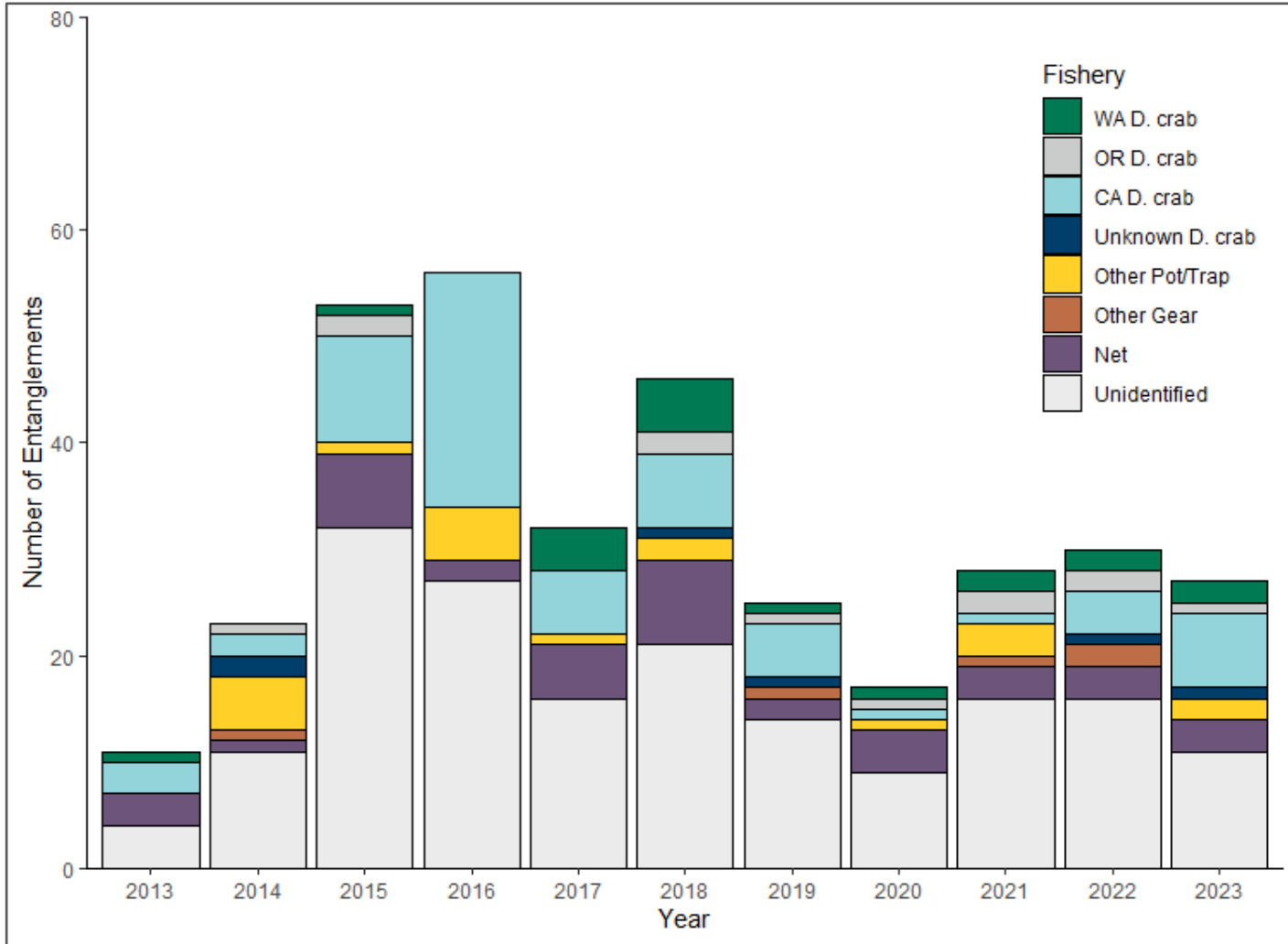
- Crab policy will be presented at the September Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Fisheries management plan is currently being drafted and will be available for public review
- Take Reduction Team (TRT) commencing June or July of 2025, NOAA fisheries is conducting interviews for TRT members now





Large whale entanglements

Large Whale Entanglements

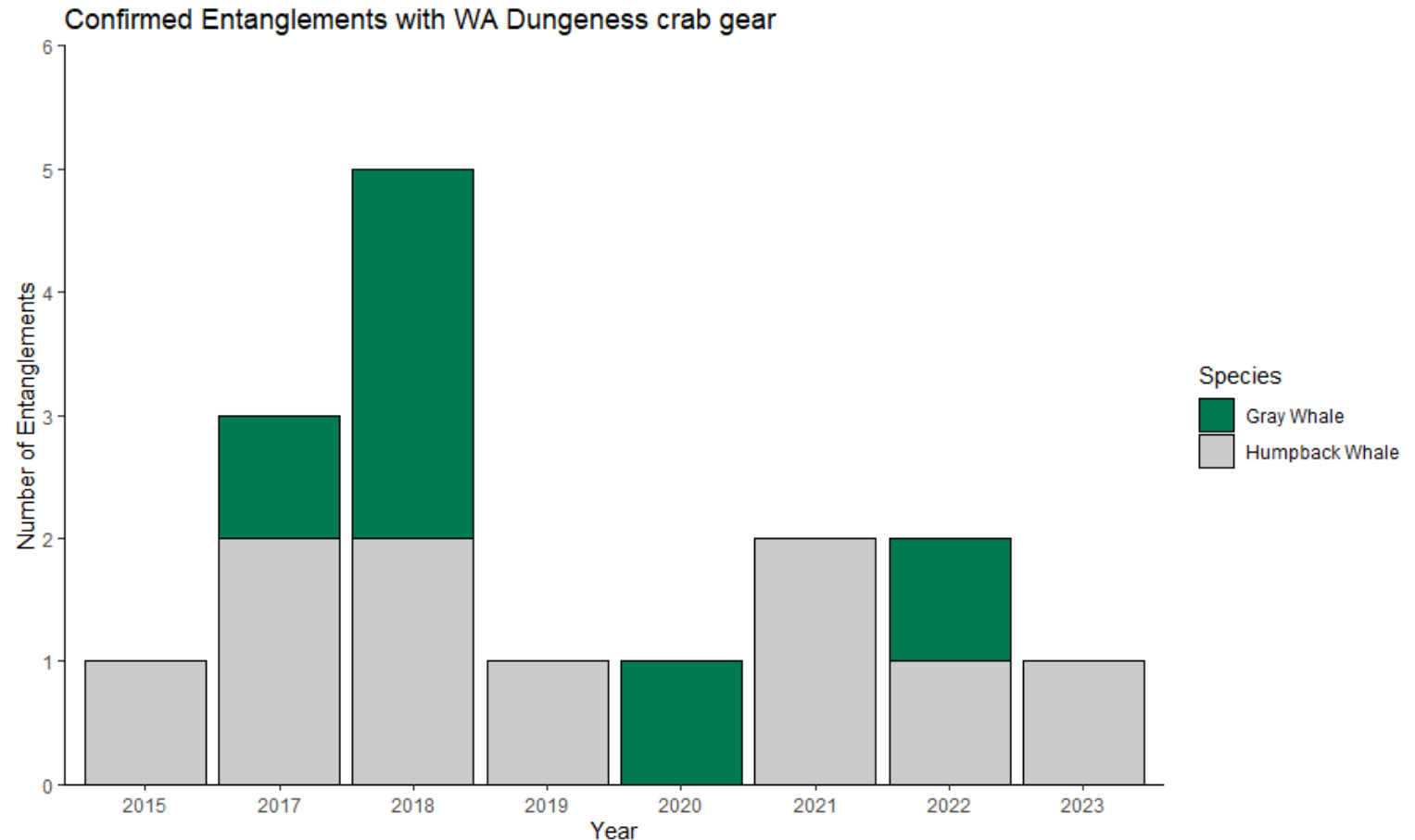


2024 Large whale entanglements in WA D. crab gear

2024 entanglement numbers:

- 1 – gray whale
- 3 – humpback whales

Confirmed entanglements involved multiple sets of gear.



What to do if you observe an entanglement?



REPORT Entangled Whales IMMEDIATELY

1-877-SOS-WHALE (1-877-767-9425) or hail the U.S. Coast Guard on Channel 16

- DO Report** Immediate reporting is critical to give the best chance for response teams to remove life-threatening gear from the whale and gather information to understand where, when and how entanglements occur to prevent future ones. Preventing future entanglements will help preserve our fishery.
- DO Stand By** If possible please stand by and keep sight of the whale. It is difficult and rare to relocate an entangled whale if a boat does not stay with the whale. Stay at least 100 yards away.
- DO Photograph Entangled Whales** WHALE: side view of dorsal fin (or hump); flukes (especially if underside is raised); head; any part of the body where gear may be present. ENTANGLEMENT: buoy(s); tags; lines on the body; trailing lines (including distance from whale); netting or other gear (if present); other gear if present.
- DO Respond Promptly if Contacted** If you are contacted about a whale entangled in your gear, please respond. You can help prevent future entanglements by providing as much information as possible about your fishing gear and practices.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT to disentangle the whale** Removing the easily accessible lines at the surface will leave the life-threatening lines attached to the whale and may make it impossible for responders to detect and remove these. Entangled whales are very rarely in immediate danger of drowning.

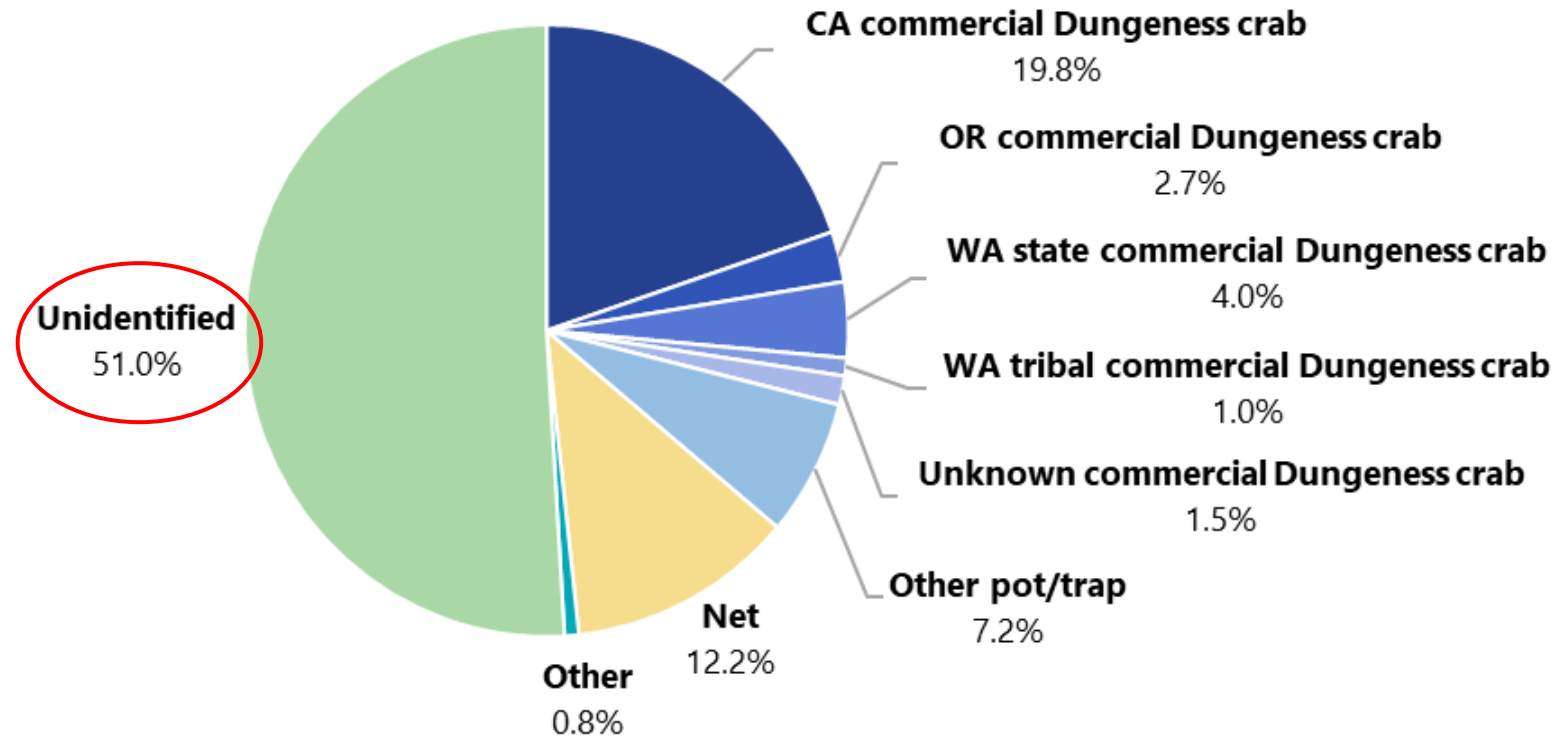


Line Marking

Why gear marking?

- **Improve gear attribution rates**
 - Increase positive attributions
 - Enable negative attributions
- **Decrease % of unidentified**
- **Effective monitoring of the gear involved in future entanglements is essential to getting an Incidental Take Permit**

**West Coast entanglement record
2013 – 2020
(n=263)**



Goals of comprehensive line marking

- Line marking easily visible from reported entanglement photos and videos
- Negative attribution

NMFS guidance

- Multiple marks
- More and larger marks than current WA requirement
- Top and upper portion of gear
- Marking at least every few fathoms, especially in the top half of line
- “Maximum extent practicable”

Washington line marking documented on gear recovered from an entangled whale



West Coast coordinated line marking proposals

CA D. Crab

Purple and black

Surface gear:

- All line marked

Main line:

- top 15 fathoms
- shallow depth provisions

Marking options:

- manufactured line
- painted to cover entirety of line

Implementation:

- Nov 1, 2025 – Surface gear
- Nov 1, 2028 – Main line

OR D. Crab

Yellow and black

Surface gear:

- All line marked
(excl. buoy gangions)

Main line:

- top 15 fathoms
- shallow depth provisions are under consideration

Marking options:

- manufactured line
- Temporary solid mark options, sunsets 2033

Implementation:

- Dec 1, 2025 – Surface gear
- Dec 1, 2028 – Main line

Federal sablefish

Colors TBD

Surface gear:

- No line marked, buoy tags on every buoy

Main line:

- top 20 fathoms

Marking options:

- manufactured line
- Continuous temporary markings in alternating bands of gear-specific colors allowed for a 3-year transition period

Implementation:

- January 1, 2026

Proposed new line marking regulations

Line marking:

- WA D. Crab: Red and black
- Manufactured line or solid marks
- Surface gear and top portion of vertical line

Held small industry workshops to get feedback on:

- Phased implementation schedule
- Alternative to manufactured line (temporary or permanent)
- Shallow depth provisions
- Needs for easy integration
- Any concerns with the proposal



WA Coastal D. Crab manufactured line

Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Timeline

Phase 1: December 1, 2025

- Surface gear line marking
- Maintain current 12-inch continuous mark in the top fathom of vertical line until transition to new main line marking requirements (phase 2)
- No longer require the bottom 12-inch continuous red mark within one fathom of the pot

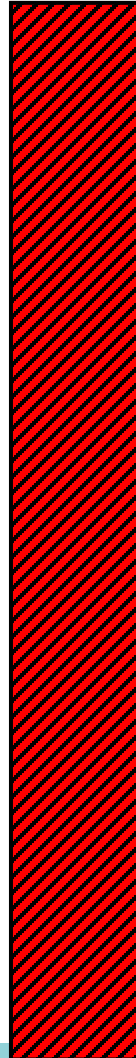
Phase 2: December 1, 2028

- Main line (vertical line from buoy to pot) top 15 fathoms of line marked *in addition to surface gear*
- Shallow depth provision allows for < 15 fathoms of line to be marked

Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Line Marking Options

Manufactured Line:

3 strands;
2 strands red and
1 strand black



Manufactured line:

Language will allow for tracers in floating line and white in hydropro

Solid markings:

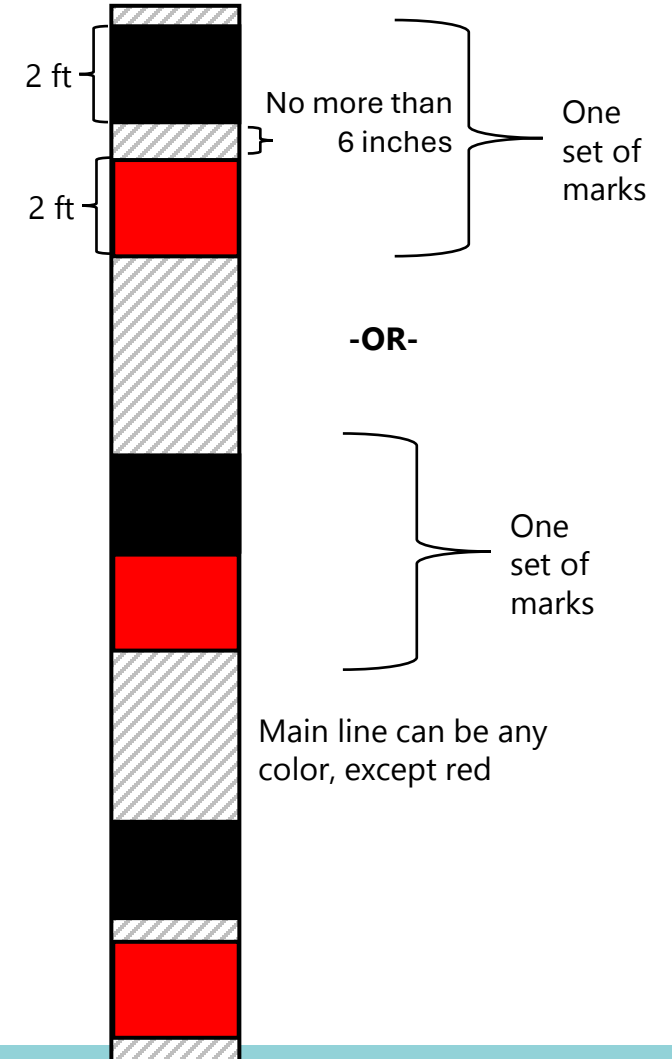
One set:

2 feet of black
within 6 inches of
2 feet of red

Solid marking methods:

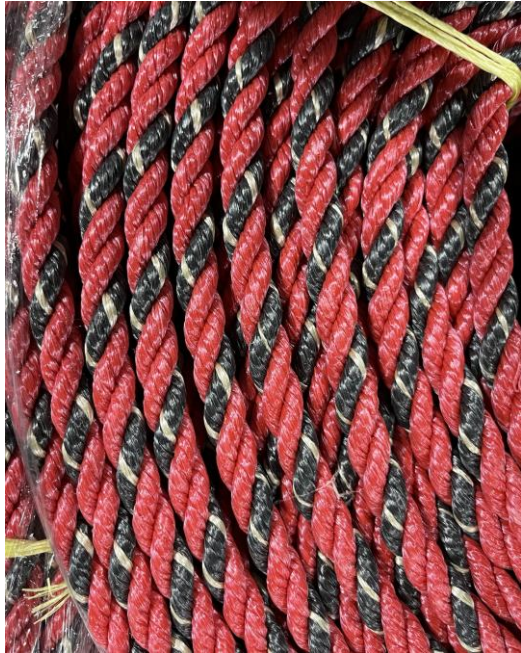
Paint or tape

The circumference of the line needs to be covered to be solid marking

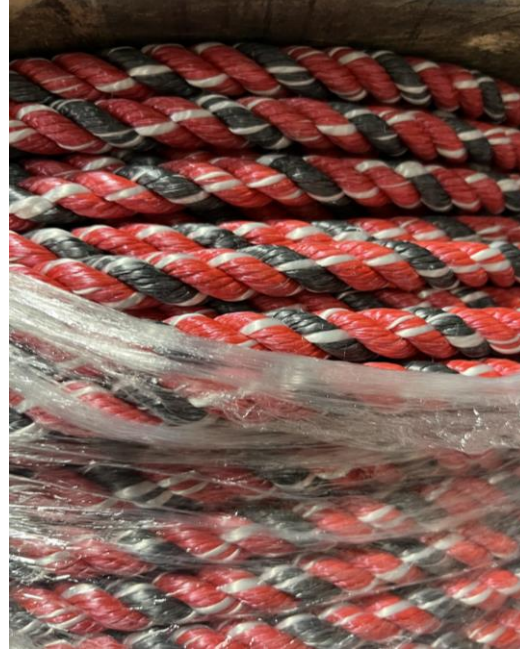


Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Manufactured line

Meets definition



Floating line with tan tracer



Hydropro 1/2"



Hydropro 3/8 "

Does NOT
meet definition



Red line with black tracer

Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Line Marking Options

Solution for existing red line: Solid markings on red line

Both marks in each set of marks will be black

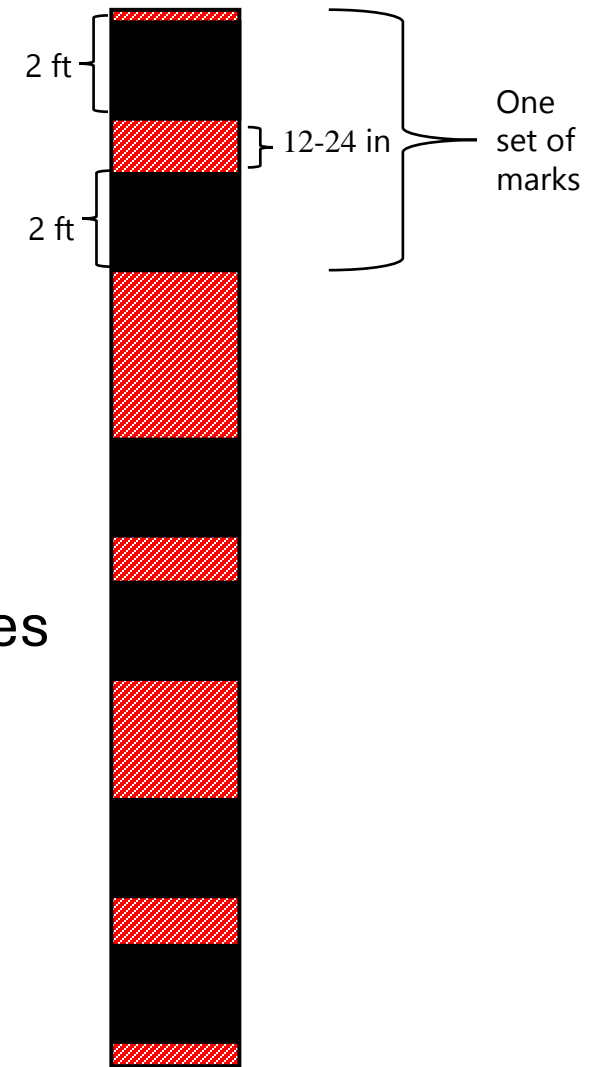
Note:

larger space required
between the two marks in
the set

Solid markings:

One set:

2 feet of black
within 12 to 24 inches
of 2 feet of black



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Surface Gear Configuration

Phase 1 - Surface gear marking

Proposed Effective Date: December 1, 2025

Surface gear marking:

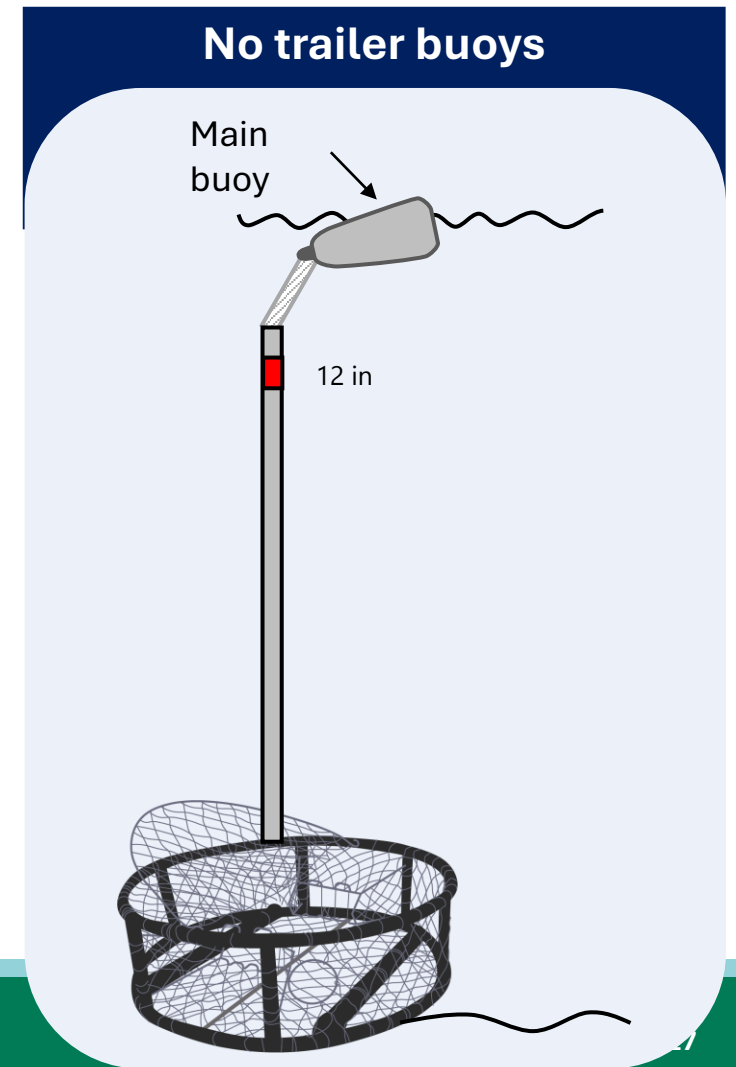
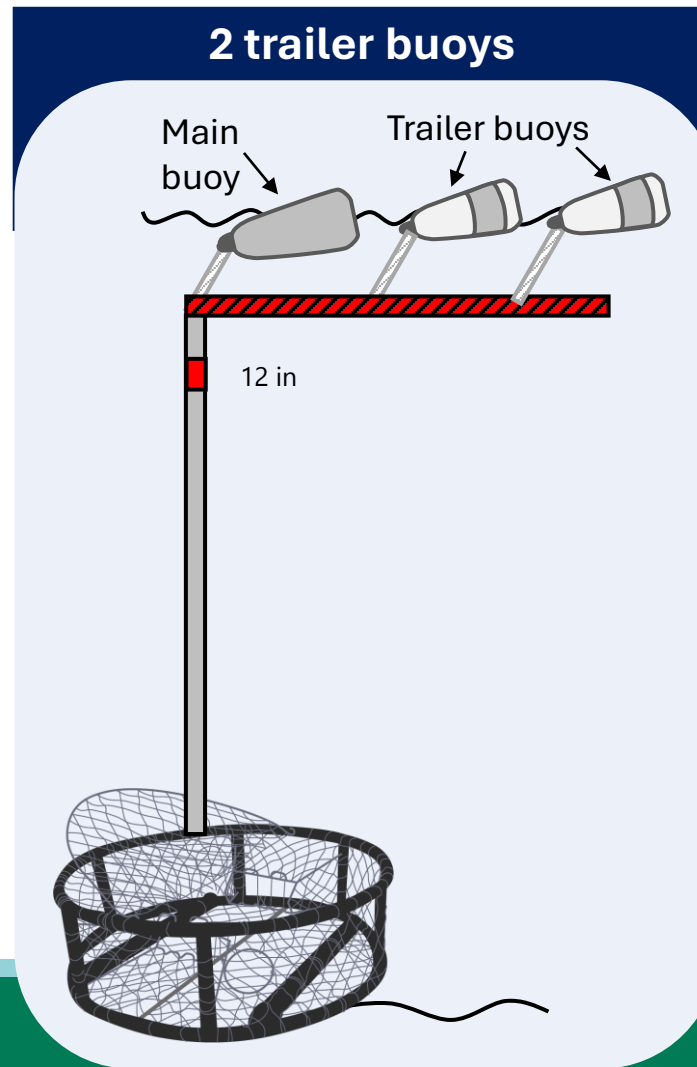
- all surface line marked (red and black manufactured line **OR** one set of marks on any trailer line connecting buoys)
- Surface line = trailer line connecting two buoys

- AND -

- maintain current 12-inch continuous red mark on main vertical line


 = Marked line

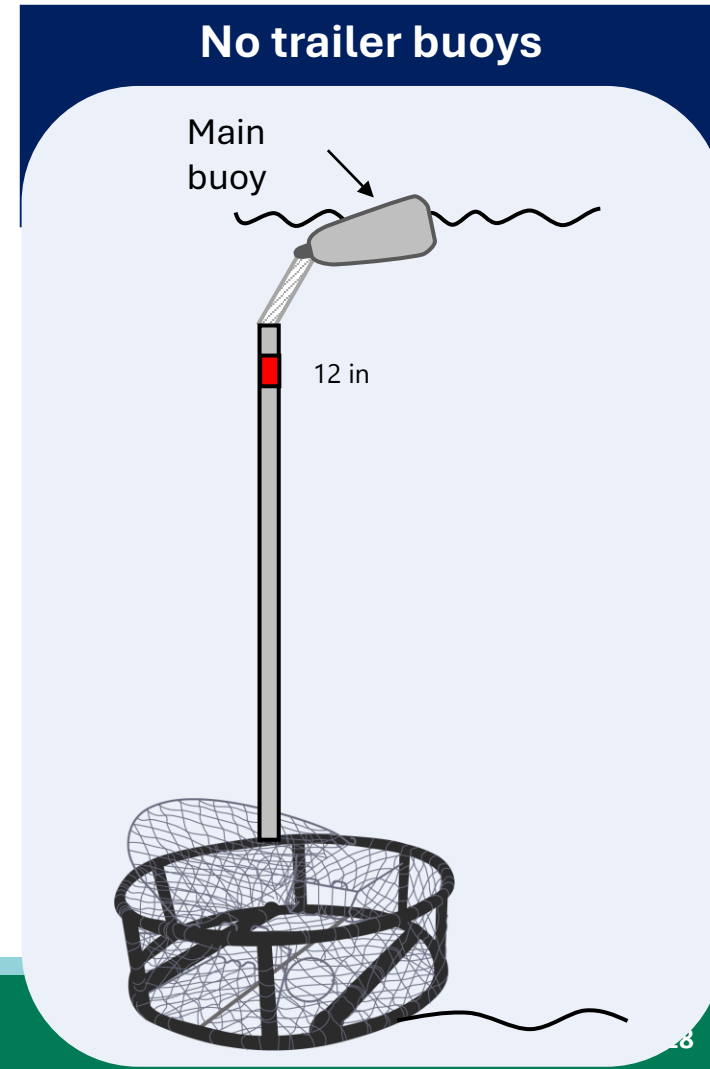
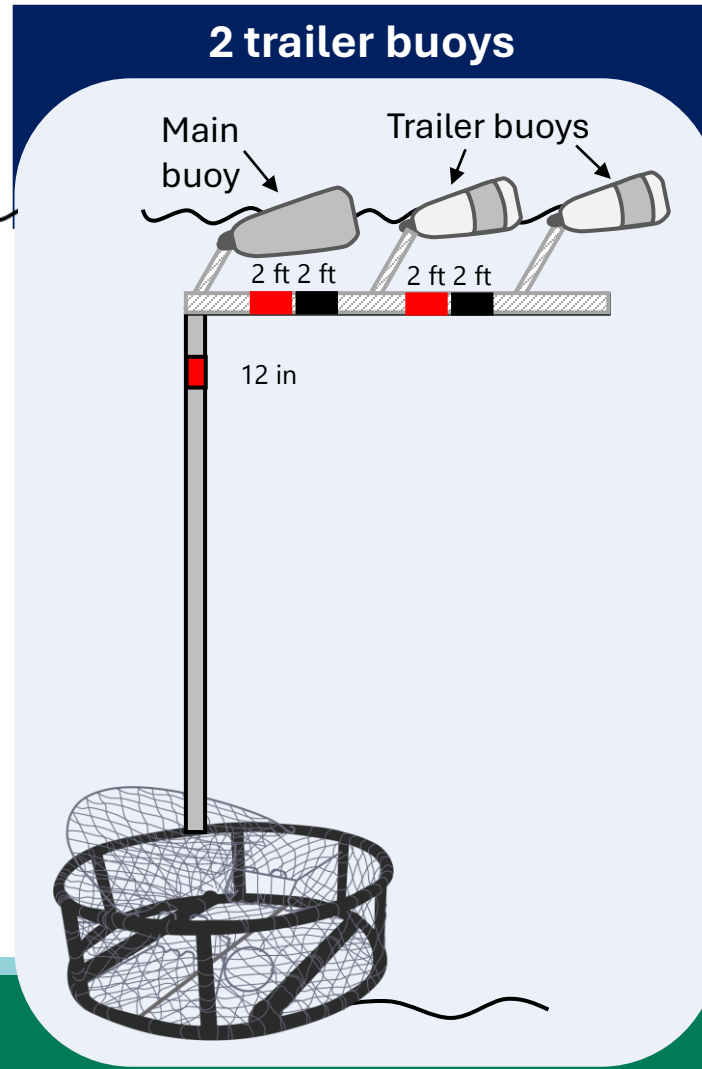
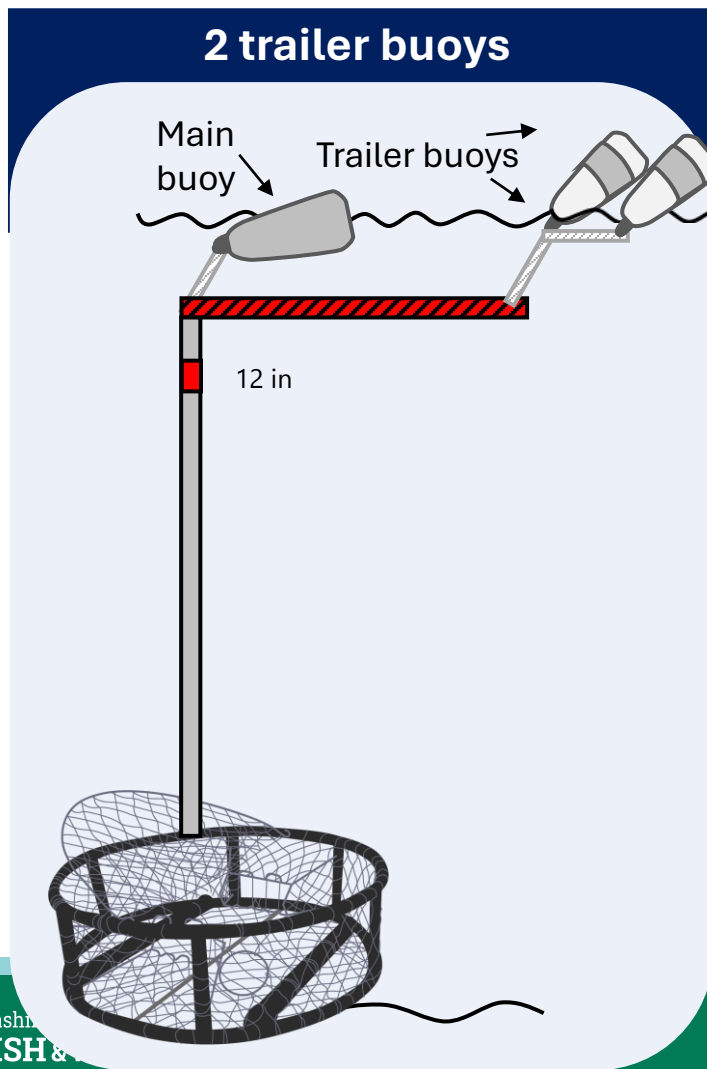
 = unmarked line



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Surface Gear Configuration

Buoy straps are exempt from line marking

 = Marked line  = unmarked line



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Main Line Gear Configuration



Phase 2 - Main line marking

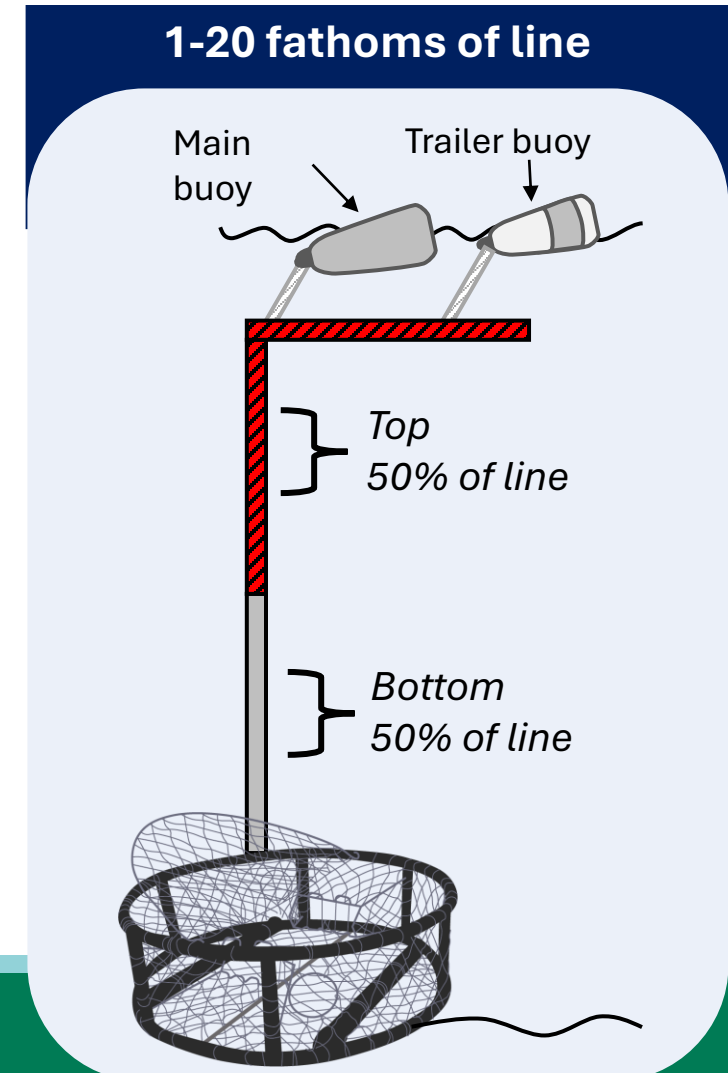
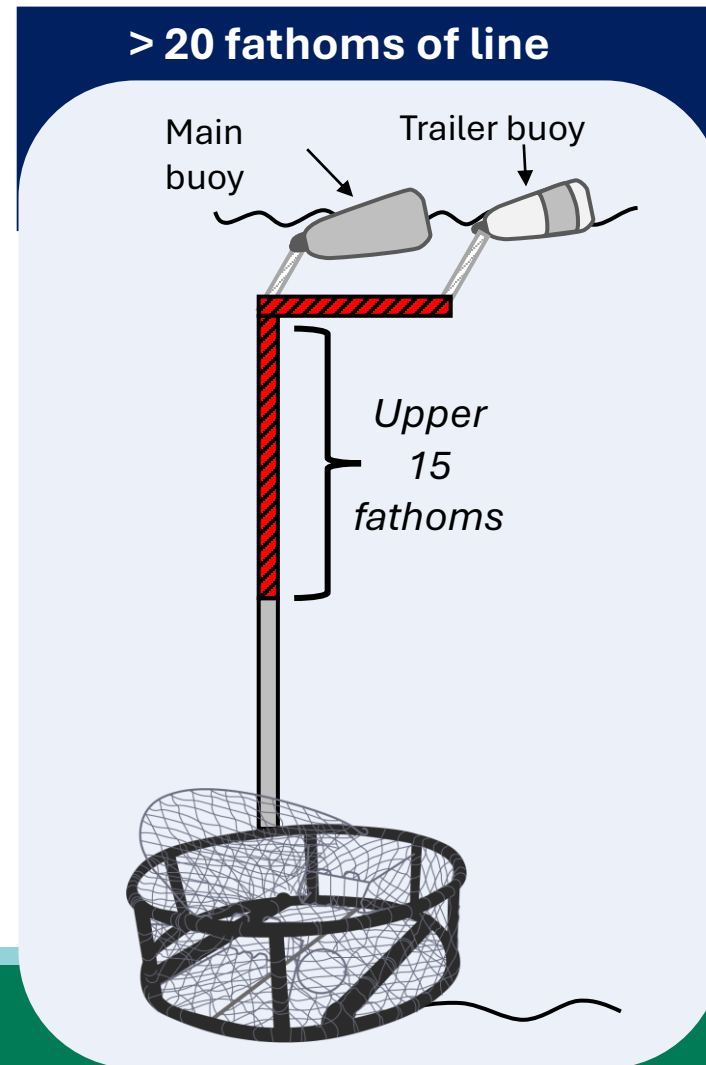
Proposed Effective Date: December 1, 2028

Vertical line marking

When fishing a total line length:

- Greater than 20 fathoms:
Top 15 fathoms marked
- Less than 20 fathoms:
Top 50% of the line marked

 = Marked line  = unmarked line



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Summary of changes we've made based on feedback

Input we've incorporated:

- Buoy straps are exempt from line marking
- Surface line definition changed to allow 2 buoys to be added to the end of a ganion line without marking
- Maintain current 12" continuous mark on vertical line during phase one
- Rule is written to line length, not fishing depth
- Shallow depth provisions now allow for > 5 fathoms of unmarked line and >15 fathoms of line to be marked
- Work with manufactures to have the line used in the fishery made to meet the requirements (Hydropro)
- Keep it simple, the first rule proposed was too complicated
- Define methods allowed to meet solid marking requirement
- Implement surface gear maximums during phase one of line marking, if implementing restrictions eventually

What we are still considering:

- Number of solid markings on vertical line to require (3 vs 5)
- To sunset solid markings or allow them indefinitely
- Existing red line with black tracers
- How to address the lack of production of sinking line in state-fishery specific colors

Surface gear maximum allowance

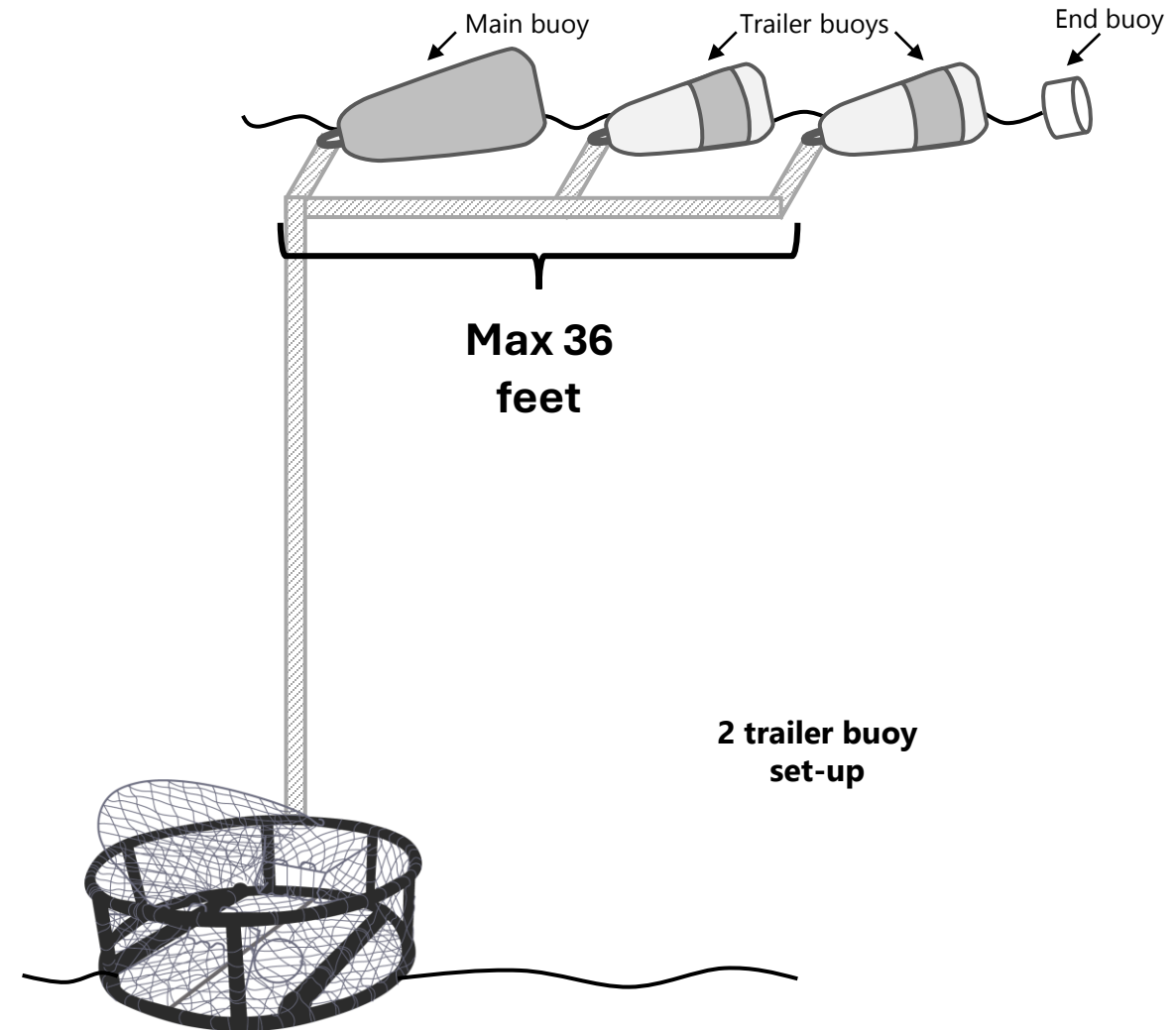
Proposal to implement with phase 1 of line marking (Dec 1, 2025)

Buoys:

1. No more than two trailer buoys
2. One end marker buoy, less than 5 inches in diameter, cannot extend greater than 3 feet behind last trailer buoy

Trailer line length:

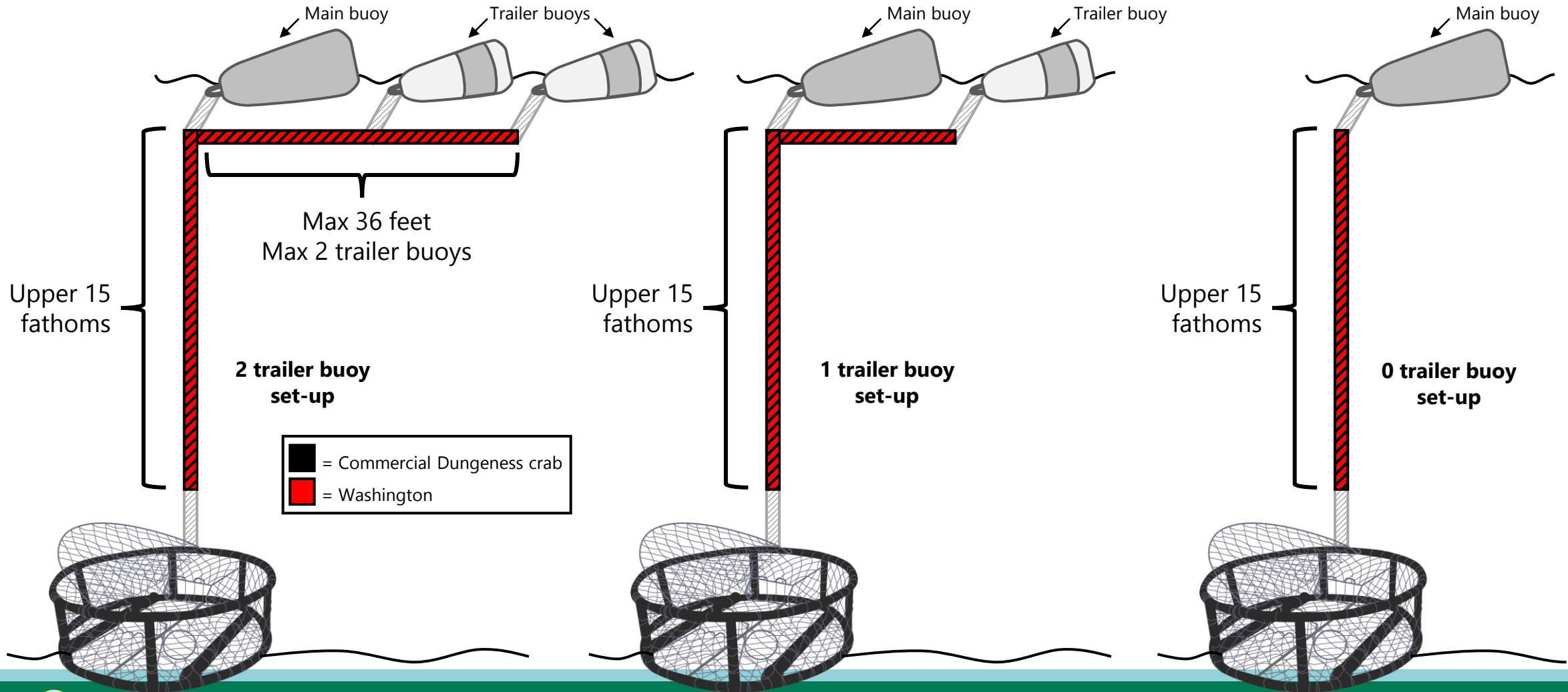
1. Maximum of 36 feet (6 fathoms)



Draft Washington Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal

Manufactured line

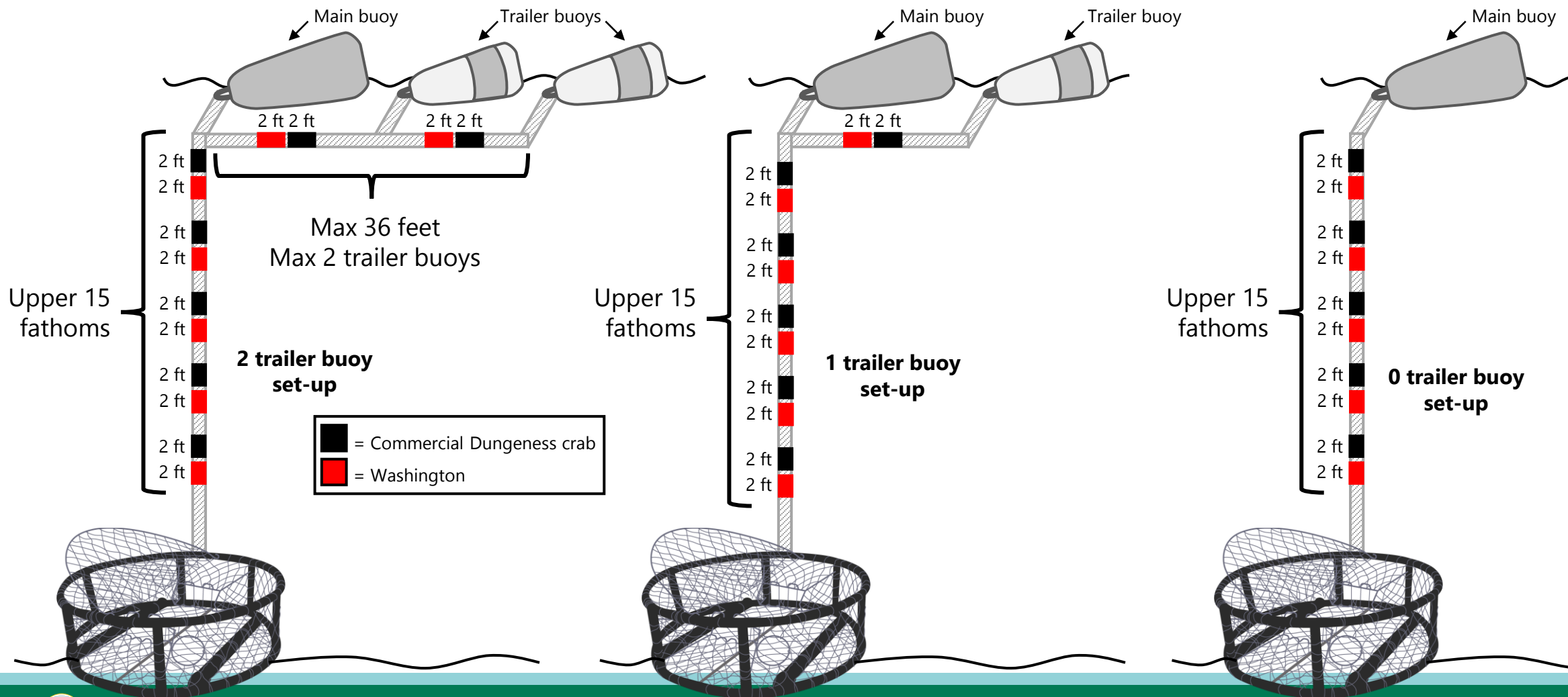
Manufactured red and black line used for any **surface line** *and* the **upper 15 fathoms of the main line**



Draft Washington Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal

Alternative marking method: Sets of solid marks, allowed indefinitely

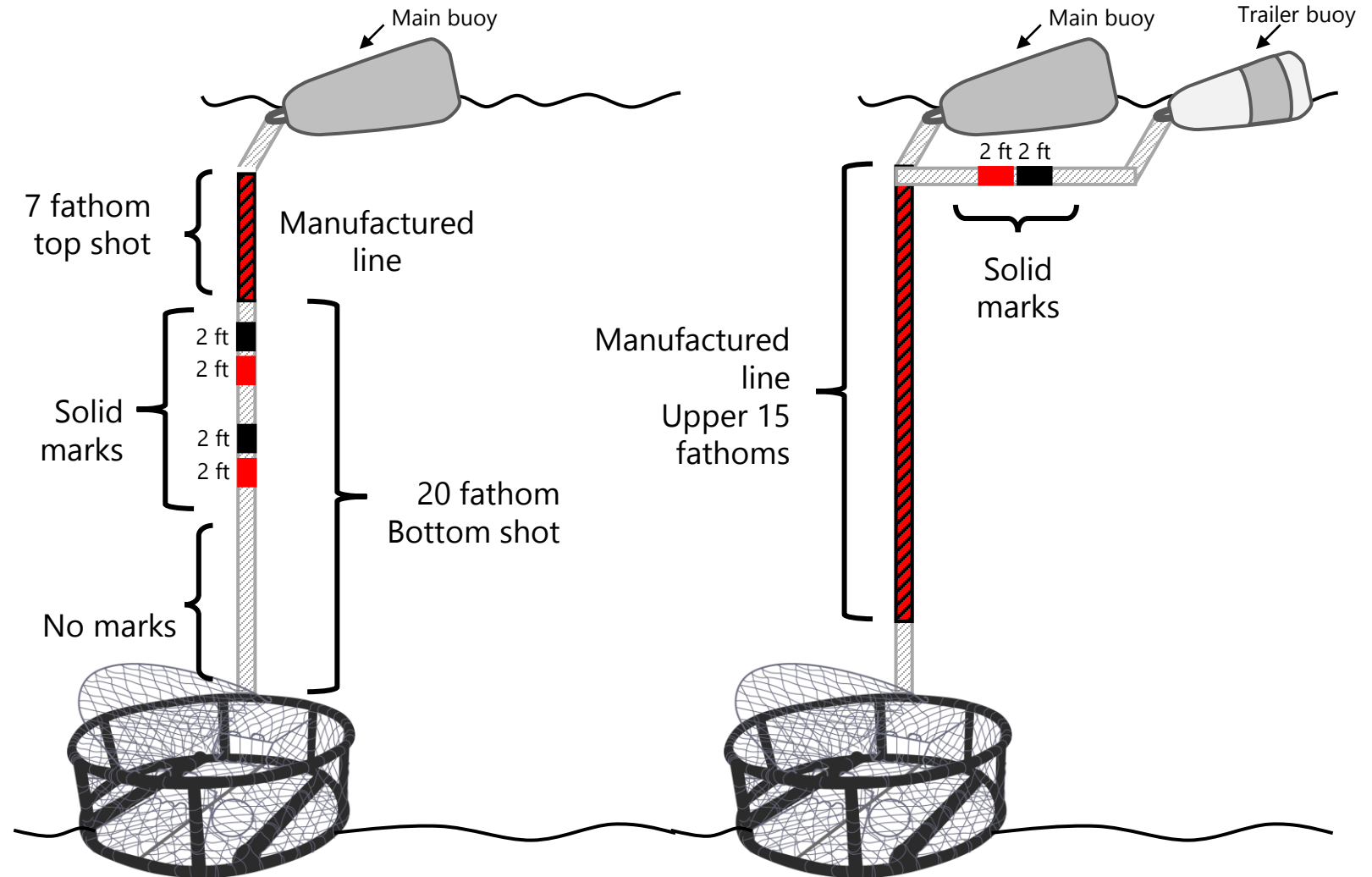
One set of **solid marks** (2' black mark within 6" of 2' red mark) on surface line between any two buoys *and* five sets evenly distributed in upper 15 fathoms of the main line



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Mix and match marking methods allowed

Examples:

- Different marking methods for surface gear and the vertical line
- The top 15 fathoms of vertical line marking requirement can be met with more than one shot of line, even using different methods of marking, as long as the top 15 fathoms of line is always marked



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Next Steps

Engage with industry:

- ✓ Hold small workshops
- ✓ Advisory board
- ✓ Sept public meeting
- Industry meeting with final rule proposal

Rule to Commission

Implement new line marking requirements





Questions?

Megan Hintz

Megan.Hintz@dfw.wa.gov

564-215-1757

Lorna Wargo

Lorna.Wargo@dfw.wa.gov

360-581-5611