

Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board Meeting

November 12, 2024

3:00 PM



Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

Proposed Agenda

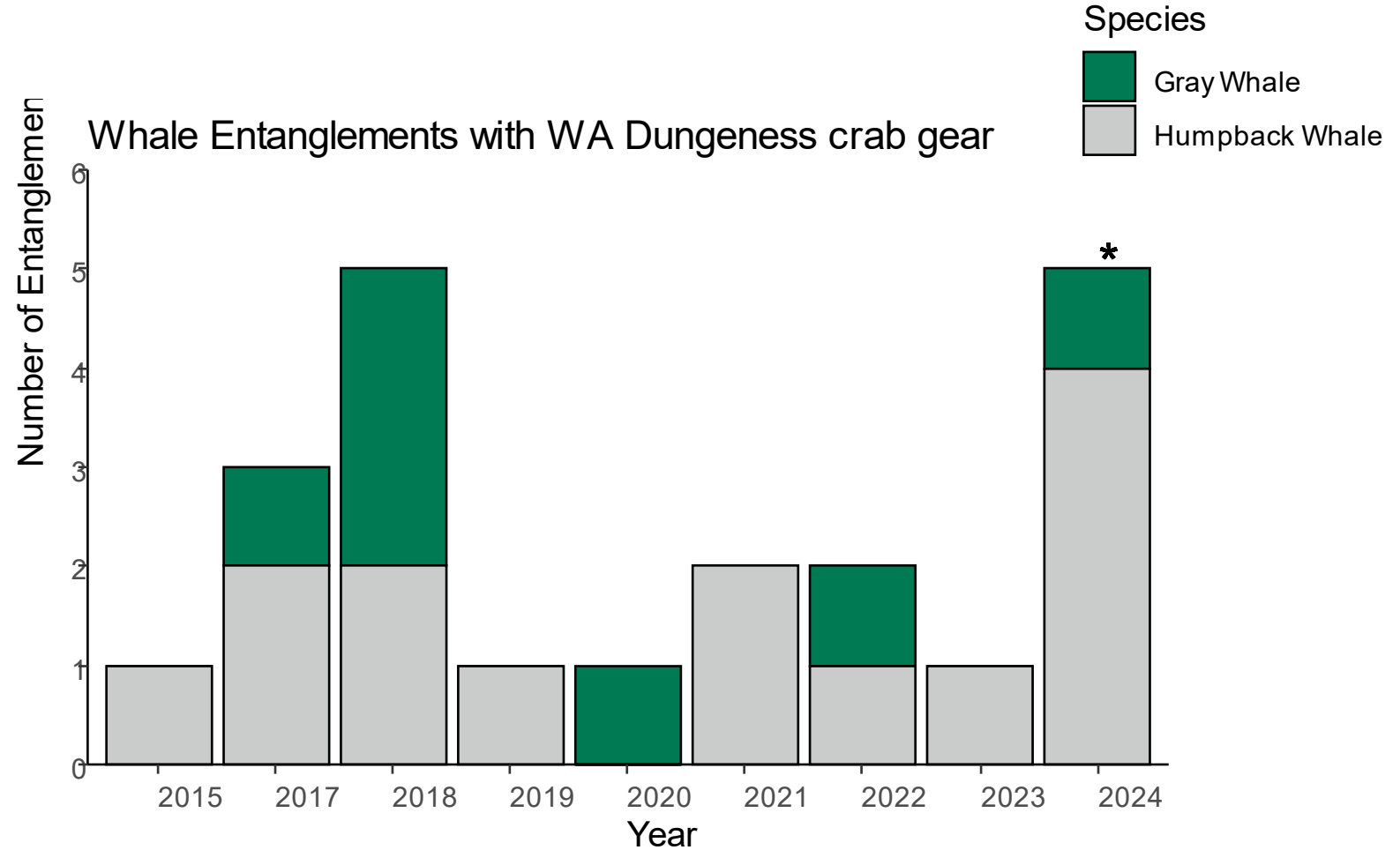
| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 3:00 – 3:05 PM | Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting | Heather Hall |
| 3:05 – 3:10 PM | 2024 Entanglement Updates | Megan Hintz |
| 3:10 – 3:45 PM | Line Marking Rule Update | Megan Hintz |
| 3:45 – 4:15 PM | 2023-24 Season Review 2024-25 Season Abundance Estimates Test Fishing Results | Matt George |
| 4:15 – 4:30 PM | Quinault Technical Meeting Update | Matt George |
| 4:30 – 4:45 PM | State-Tribal Co-management Agreements | Heather Hall |
| 4:45 – 5:00 PM | Discussion | Heather Hall |



2024 whale entanglements

Preliminary 2024 entanglements with WA gear

- Elevated entanglements this year with WA gear
- Anecdotally, we are seeing elevated numbers of entanglements across the West Coast



Preliminary 2024 entanglements with WA gear

| Report Date | Whale Species | Report Location | Gear summary | Disentanglement |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| Apr-16 | Gray Whale | Grays Harbor, WA | 6 sets of WDFW gear, from 5 different gear owners with current main season tags, plus 1 additional set of D crab gear | Unsuccessful disentanglement response, observed deceased |
| Jul-19 | Humpback Whale | Long Beach, WA | 2 sets of gear from the same owner with current summer tags | Unauthorized, partial disentanglement |
| Aug-14 | Humpback Whale | Offshore of Westport, WA | 3 sets of WDFW gear, all different gear owners with current summer tags | Successfully disentangled |
| Aug-16 | Humpback Whale | Coos Bay, OR | 1 set of WDFW gear with current main season tags and 2 additional sets of D crab gear | Unauthorized, partial disentanglement |
| September | Humpback Whale | Hecate Strait, BC | 1 set of WDFW gear, plus more than 20 buoys and lots of line | Successfully disentangled |



Line Marking Updates

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 until transition to new main line marking requirements (phase 2)

Phase 2: December 1, 2028

- Main line (main buoy to pot) top 15 fathoms of line marked *in addition to surface gear*
- Shallow depth provision allows for fishing with less than 20 fathoms of line

Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Updates to the proposal

Updates:

- Reduced the number of sets of solid marks from 5 to 3
- Sunset the allowance of solid markings
 - We will reevaluate solid markings prior to the sunset date

Maintained:

Everything else, including:

- Definition of state-fishery specific manufactured line (2/3 strands red, 1/3 strands black)
- Surface gear maximums
- Solid marking allowance on red line

Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: **Manufactured line**

Meets definition



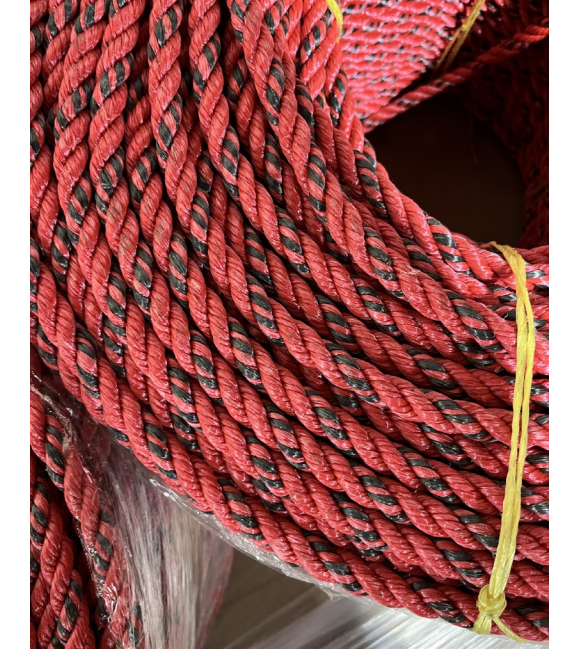
Floating line with tan tracer



Hydropro 1/2"



Hydropro 3/8 "



Red line with black tracer

Who does this affect?

Does NOT
meet definition



Next Steps

| When | Task |
|-----------------------|---|
| This week | Draft rule language to the Advisory Board for review & feedback |
| In process | Small Business Economic Impact Statement |
| End of January (2025) | Public comment opens |
| March 2025 | Commission briefing and public comment |
| April 2025 | Commission adoption |
| December 1, 2025 | Surface line marking required |
| December 1, 2028 | Vertical line marking required |



2023-24 Season Review

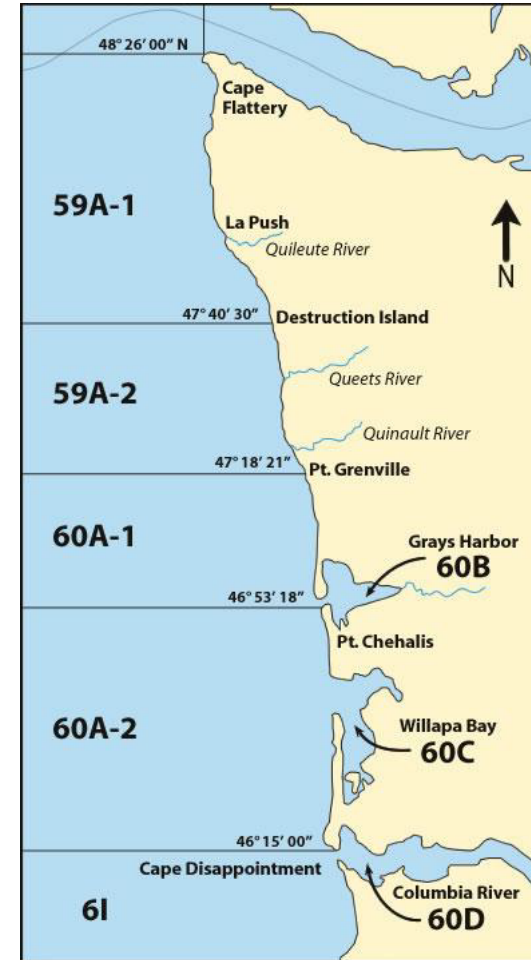
2024-25 Season Abundance Estimates

2023-24 Catch Totals - All Areas

Catch (lbs) by state and tribal fleets through 10/01/2024

| Area | State Landings (lbs) | Tribal Landings (lbs) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 59A1 | 117,684 | 49,935 |
| 59A2 | 397,176 | 238,626 |
| 60A1 | 2,147,061 | 3,140,221 |
| 60A2* | 10,466,305 | |
| 60B | 611,183 | 25,137 |
| 60C | 987,212 | |
| 61 | 2,840,255 | |
| Total (N. Pt. Chehalis) | 3,273,104 (48.7%) | 3,453,919 (51.3%) |
| Total (coastwide) | 17,566,876 | |
| Season Total | 21,020,795 | |

*Includes catch from area 60D



Commercial Crab Fishing
WDFW Catch Reporting Areas

State-QIN Catch Comparison

2023-24 season landings

| Entity | 59A-2 | 60A-1 | 60B | Total |
|--------------|---------|-----------|---------|------------------|
| QIN | 237,949 | 3,140,221 | 25,137 | 3,403,307 |
| STATE | 397,176 | 2,147,061 | 611,183 | 3,155,420 |

Corresponding sharing percentages by catch area

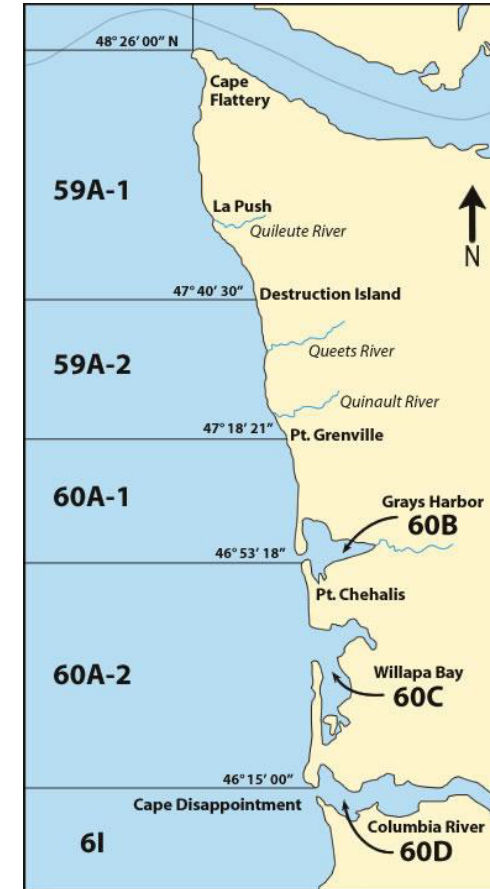
| Sharing | 59A-2 | 60A-1 | 60B | Total |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| QIN | 37.5% | 59.4% | 4.0% | 51.9% |
| STATE | 62.5% | 40.6% | 96.0% | 48.1% |

23-24 Catch Update - All Areas

Catch (lbs) by state and tribal fleets through 10/1/2024

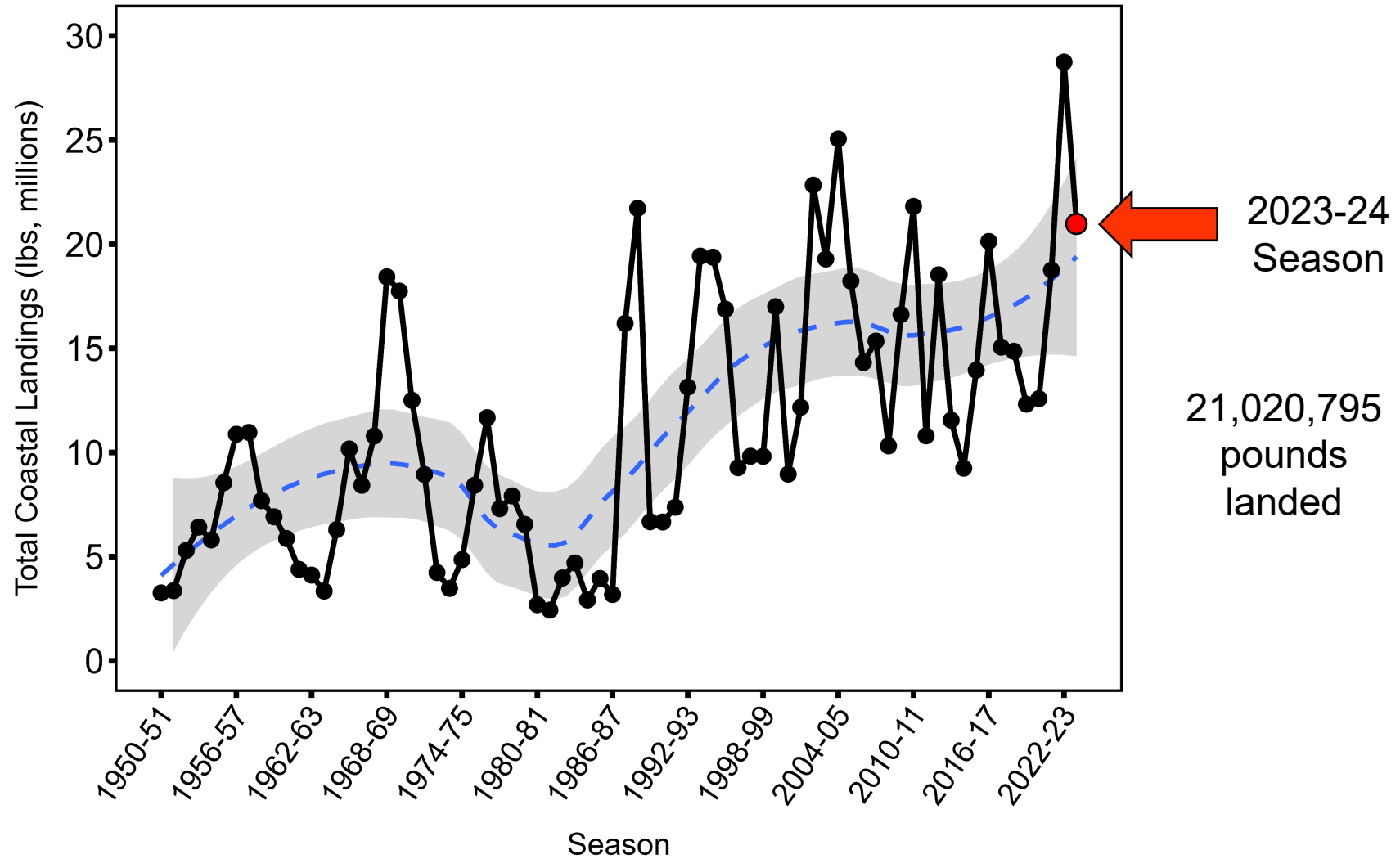
| Area | 22-23 Coastwide Landings (lbs) | 23-24 Coastwide Landings (lbs) | Percent Change |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 59A1 | 803,322 | 167,619 | -79% |
| 59A2 | 1,271,177 | 635,802 | -50.0% |
| 60A1 | 8,527,063 | 5,287,282 | -38% |
| 60A2* | 13,031,451 | 10,390,383 | -20% |
| 60B | 295,731 | 636,320 | +115% |
| 60C | 1,950,843 | 987,212 | -49% |
| 61 | 2,863,908 | 2,840,255 | -1% |
| Total | 28,743,495 | 21,020,795 | -27% |

*Includes catch from area 60D



Commercial Crab Fishing
WDFW Catch Reporting Areas

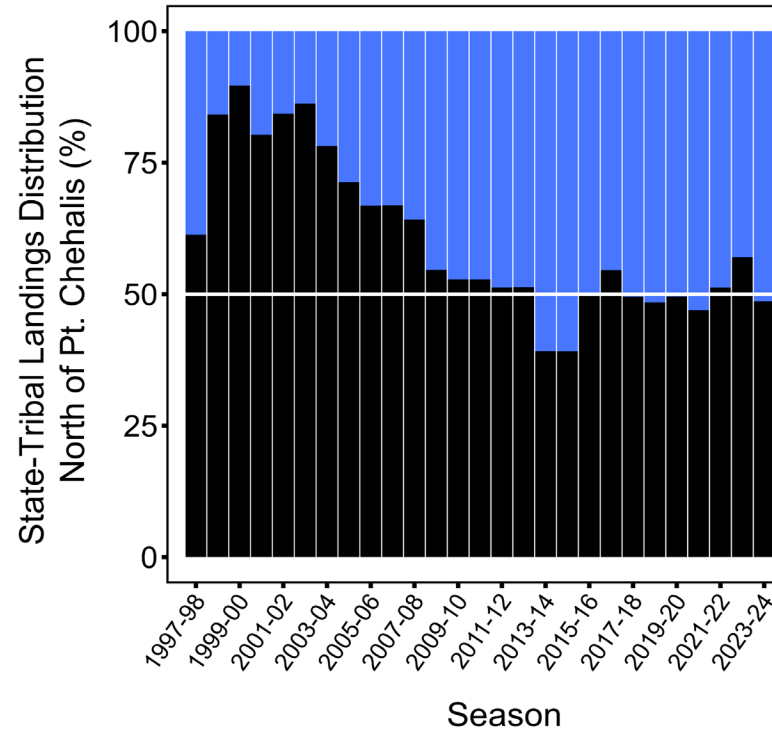
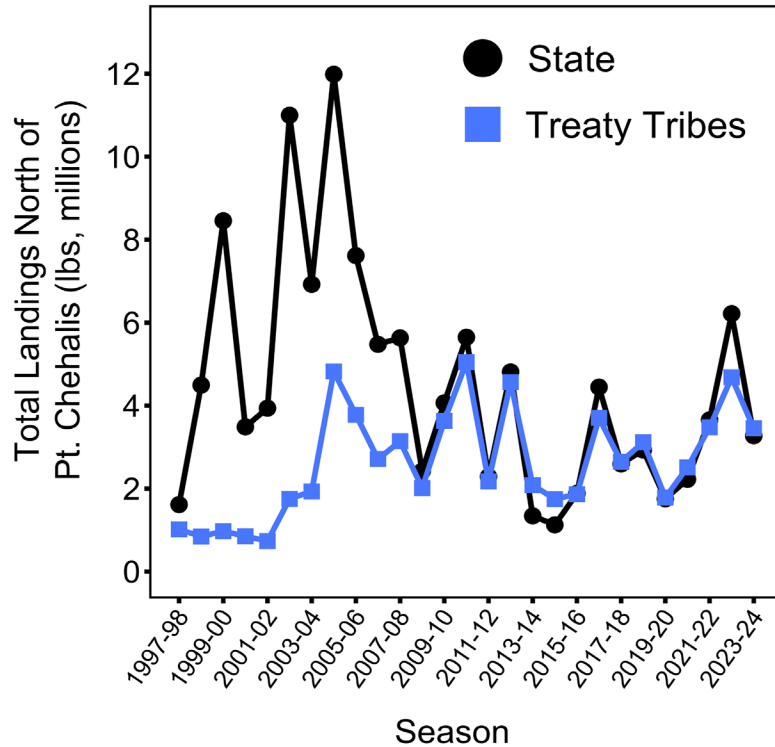
2023-24 season landings



2023-24 management actions

| Date | Management Action |
|----------------|---|
| Dec. 11, 2023 | Quinault fishery opened |
| Feb. 1, 2024 | State Fishery Opened 400/250 pot limit in effect coastwide; 30 days south of Pt. Chehalis Primary SMA established |
| March 25, 2024 | Secondary SMA (SSMA) established; northern boundary at Split Rock. |
| | Pot limit lifted in QIN U&A. |
| April 15, 2024 | QIN moved southern boundary of SMA from Copalis River to Joe Creek. |
| May 1, 2024 | QIN moved western boundary of SMA to approximately 17 fathoms. |
| | Start of summer fishery: Pot limit reduced to 330/200 (33% reduction). |
| Aug. 23, 2024 | Quinault fishery closed. |
| Aug. 26, 2024 | SSMA opened to state fishers. |
| Sept. 15, 2024 | State fishery closed. |
| | |

Historical Harvest Sharing



23-24 Season

Tribes
3,453,919
(51.3%)

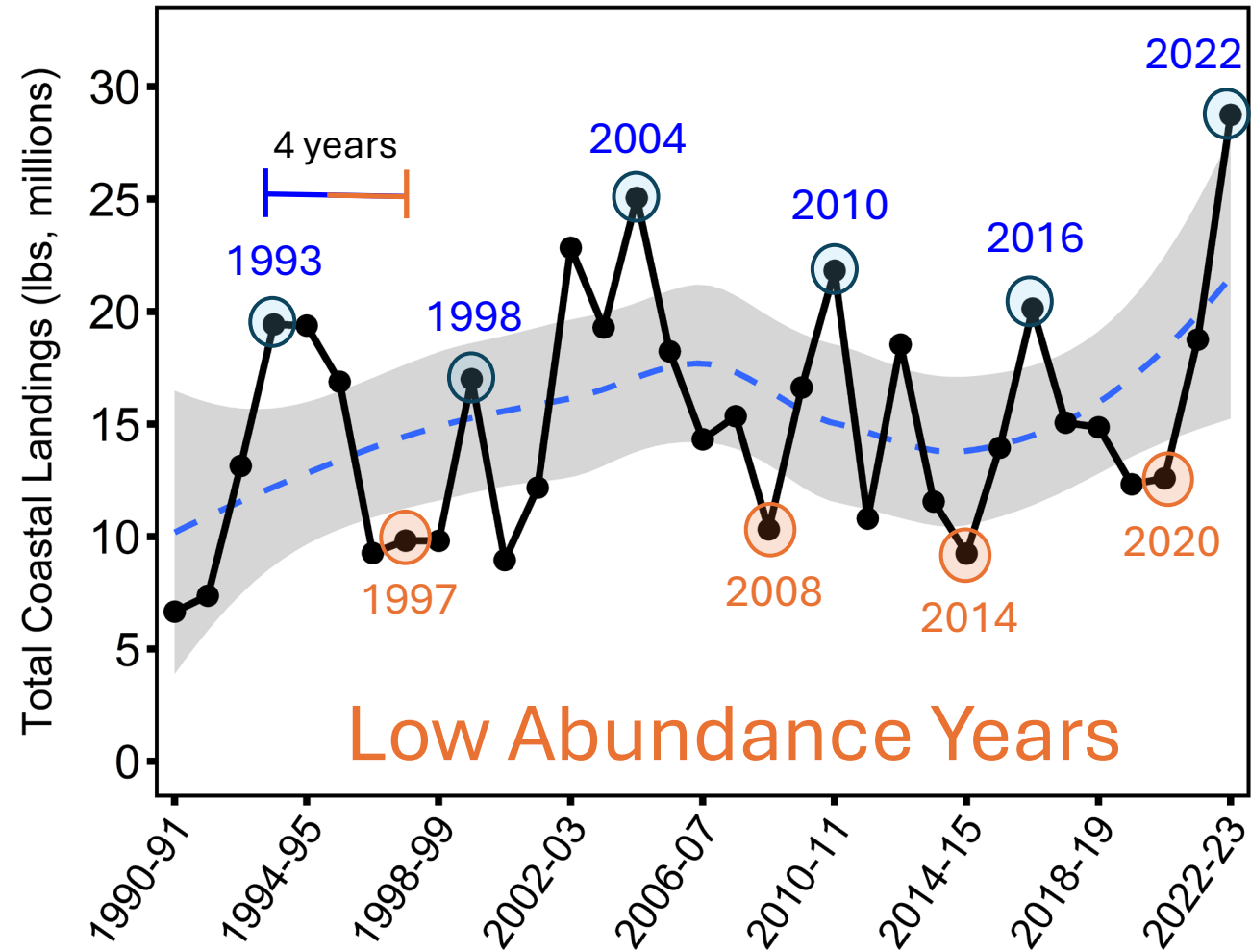
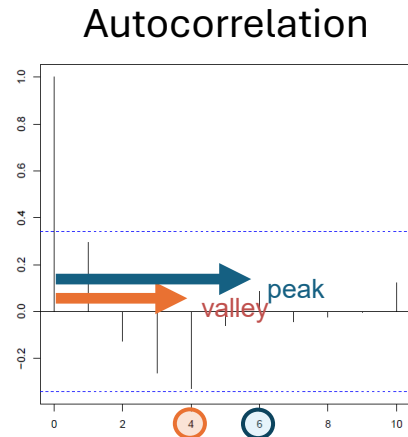
State
3,273,104
(48.7%)

Difference
180,815

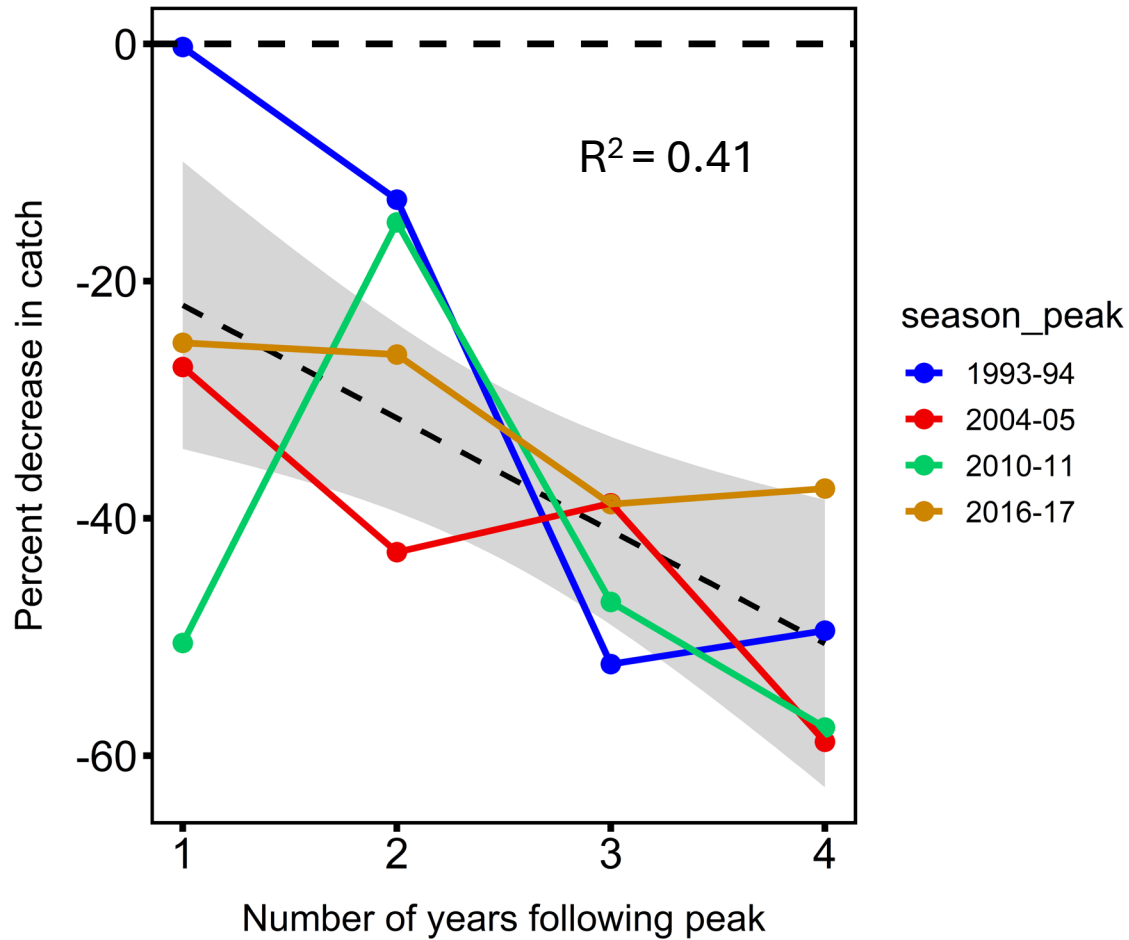
Catch sharing 2008-09 to current:

| | tribes | state | total |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| total | 48,506,337 | 50,682,463 | 99,188,800 |
| percent | 48.9% | 51.1% | |

2023-24 Season Projection



2023-24 Season Projection



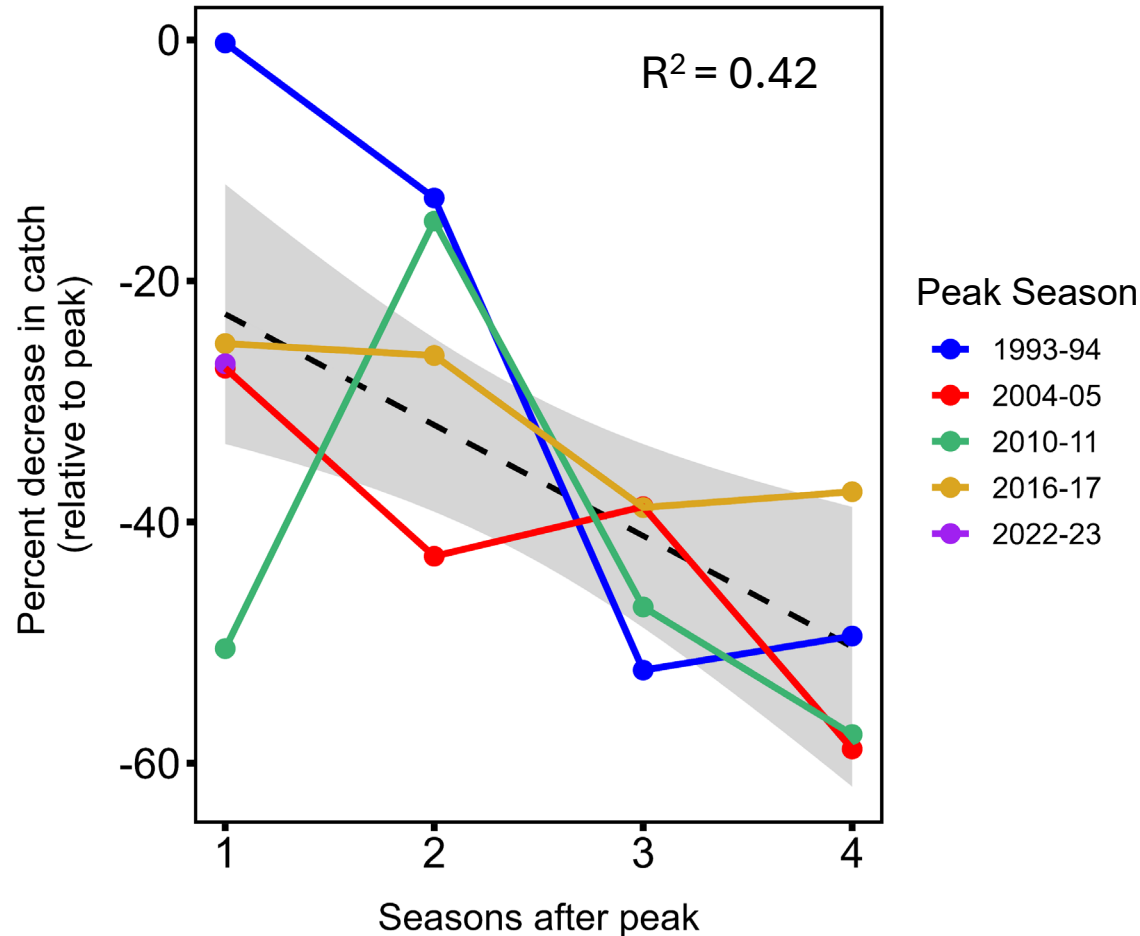
Total Coastal Landings

2022-23 Season:
28.7 million

2023-24 Projection:
21.9 million lbs
23.7% decrease

2023-24 Total
21.0 million lbs
26.9% decrease

2023-24 Season Projection



Total Coastal Landings

2022-23 Season (peak):

28.7 Million

2023-24 Total:

21.0 million lbs

26.9% decrease from 2022-23

2024-25 Projection:

17.4 – 21.5 Million

39% – 25% decrease from 2022-23

17% – 0% decrease from 2023-24

2024-25 Preseason Test Fishery Results

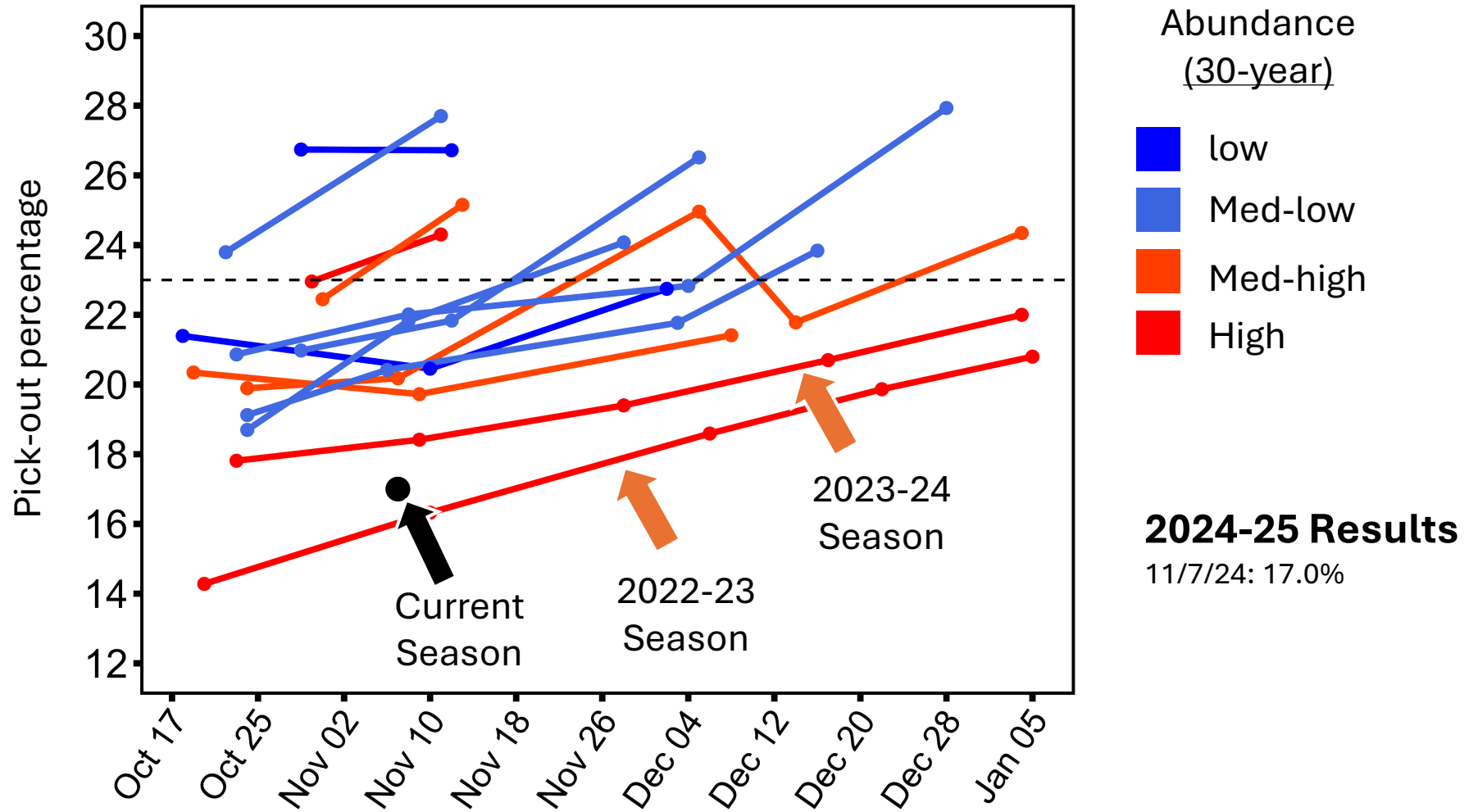
Quinault:
Westport – 15.8%

2024 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA

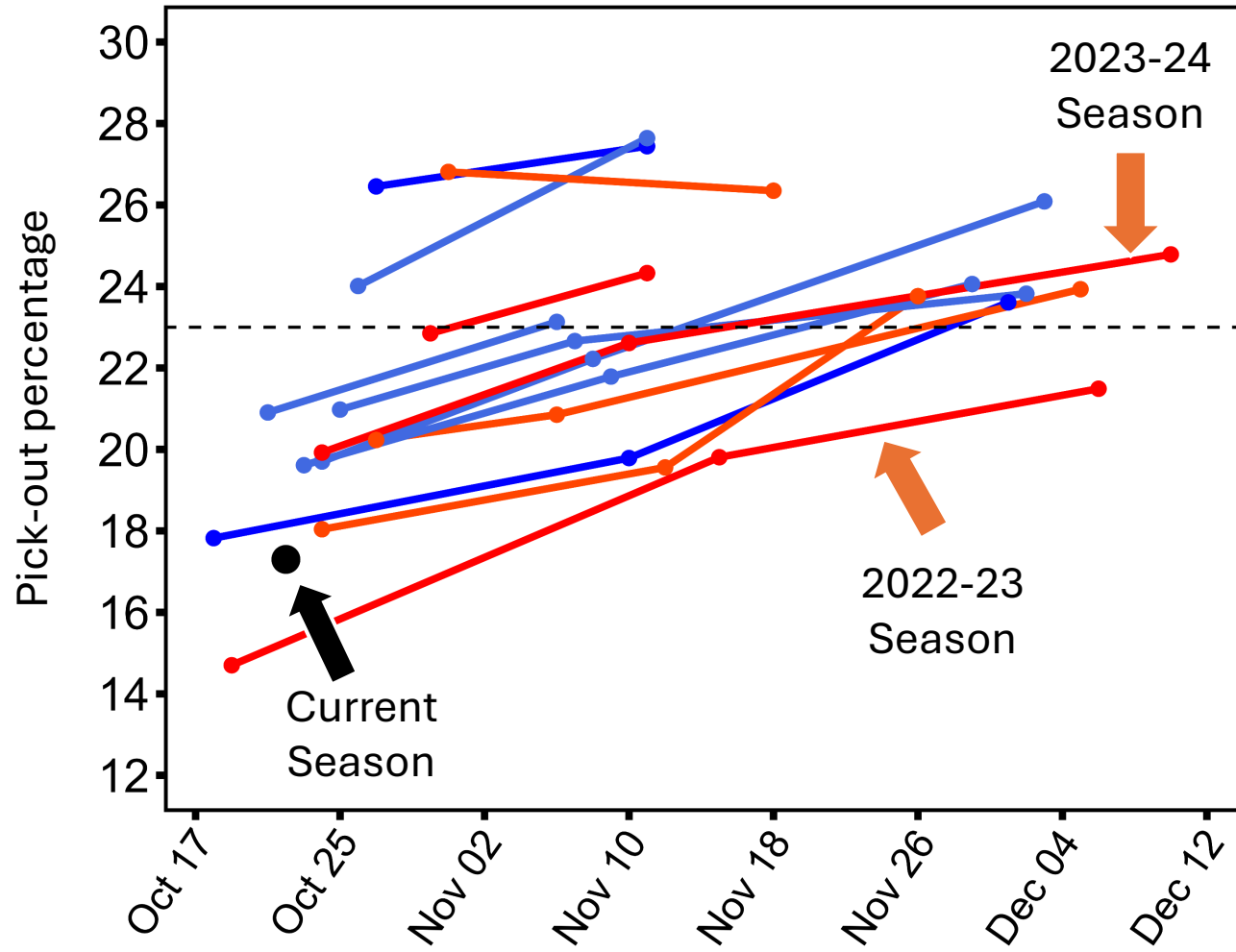
* Date is the date the pots were pulled

| Test Area | Number of pots | Optional Early Round | | Round 1 | |
|---|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| | | Date* | Meat Recovery % | Date* | Meat Recovery % |
| Washington | | | | | |
| Northern | n/a | NT | NT | | |
| Westport | 54 | 10/23/24 | 17.3%^ | | |
| Long Beach | 54 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 17.0%^ |
| Oregon | | | | | |
| Astoria (50-A) | 36 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 20.7% |
| Garibaldi (50-B) | 18 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 21.5% |
| Pacific City (50-C) | 18 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 21.3% |
| Newport North (50-D) | 18 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 28.4% |
| Newport South (50-E and 50-F) | 36 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 27.1% |
| Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H) | 36 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 25.3%* |
| Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J) | 36 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 24.3%*~ |
| Port Orford (50-K) | 18 | NT | NT | 11/7/24 | 23.6% |
| Brookings (50-L) | 18 | NT | NT | 11/6/24 | 25.4% |
| California | | | | | |
| Crescent City | 36 | NT | NT | NT | NT |
| Trinidad | 36 | NT | NT | NT | NT |
| Eureka | 36 | NT | NT | NT | NT |
| District 10 (not bound by Tri-State) | | | | | |
| Bodega Bay | n/a | NT | NT | | |
| San Francisco | n/a | NT | NT | | |
| ^Crabs retained in vessel hold overnight before offload | | | | | |
| * Crab collected from less than total pots set in area I (12 pots) and area H (15 pots) | | | | | |
| ~ Soak time of area I crab was 48hrs | | | | | |

Test Fishery Results – Long Beach



Test Fishery Results – Westport

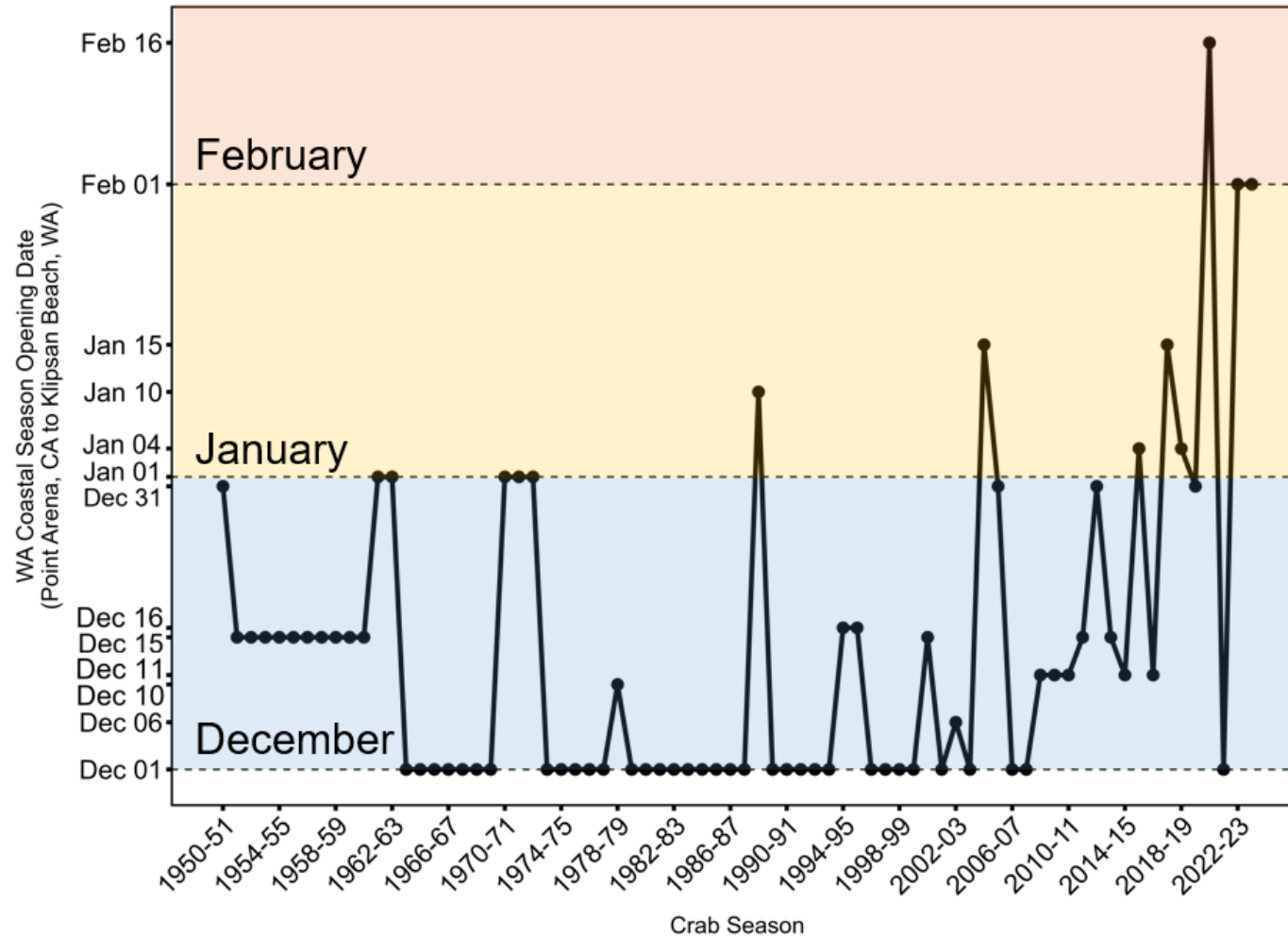


Abundance
(30-year)

- low
- Med-low
- Med-high
- High

2024-25 Results
10/24/24: 17.3%

Historical Season Openers





Quinault Technical Meeting Update

Current Management Objectives

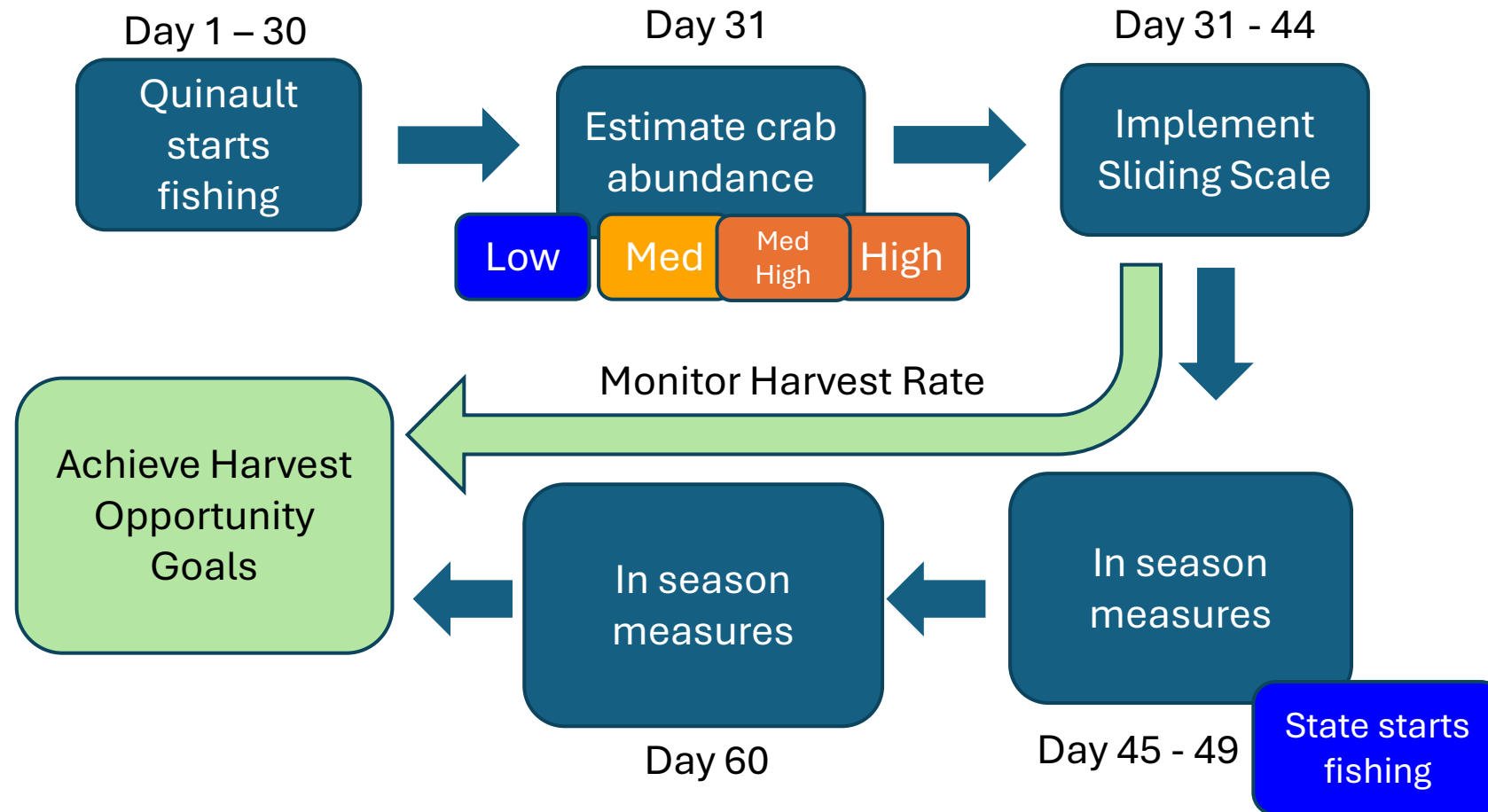
2023-24 State QIN Harvest Management Agreement

“The management objectives of this plan are to provide State and QIN fishers with a quality fishery accompanied by a fair sharing of the harvest opportunity in the area between Point Chehalis and Destruction Island (management area).

For the QIN fishery, the intent of this management plan is to provide opportunity for QIN fishers to achieve 50% of the harvestable crab in the management area.

For the State fishery, the intent of this management plan is to provide the State fishers a quality opportunity to harvest the state’s share of the resource.”

Approach



Current Sliding Scale Methodology

Appendix A. 2023-2024 State-QIN Dungeness Crab Harvest Management Plan

| Projected Season Abundance | Total Catch in 31 days | Total in 31 days/25 | QIN season head start days |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Low | 1,000,000 – 1,250,000 | 40,000 – 50,000 | 45 |
| Med | 1,250,000 – 1,500,000 | 50,000 – 60,000 | 46 |
| Med-high | 1,500,000 – 1,750,000 | 60,000 – 70,000 | 47 |
| High | > 1,750,000 | > 70,000 | 49 |

Proposed Sliding Scale Methodology

| Season Type | Total in 31 | Head Start Days |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| low | < 1,000,000 | 43 |
| low-med | 1,000,000 - 1,250,000 | 45 |
| med | 1,250,000 - 1,500,000 | 46 |
| med-high | 1,500,000 - 1,750,000 | 47 |
| high | > 1,750,000 | 49 |



Questions?



WAC 220-330-430 Proposed Updates

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

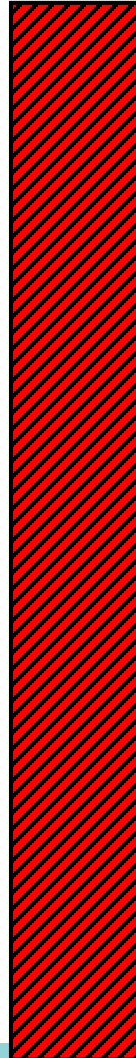
Phase 2: December 1, 2028

- Main line (vertical line from buoy to pot) top 15 fathoms of line marked *in addition to surface gear*
- Shallow depth provision allows for fishing with less than 20 fathoms of line

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:

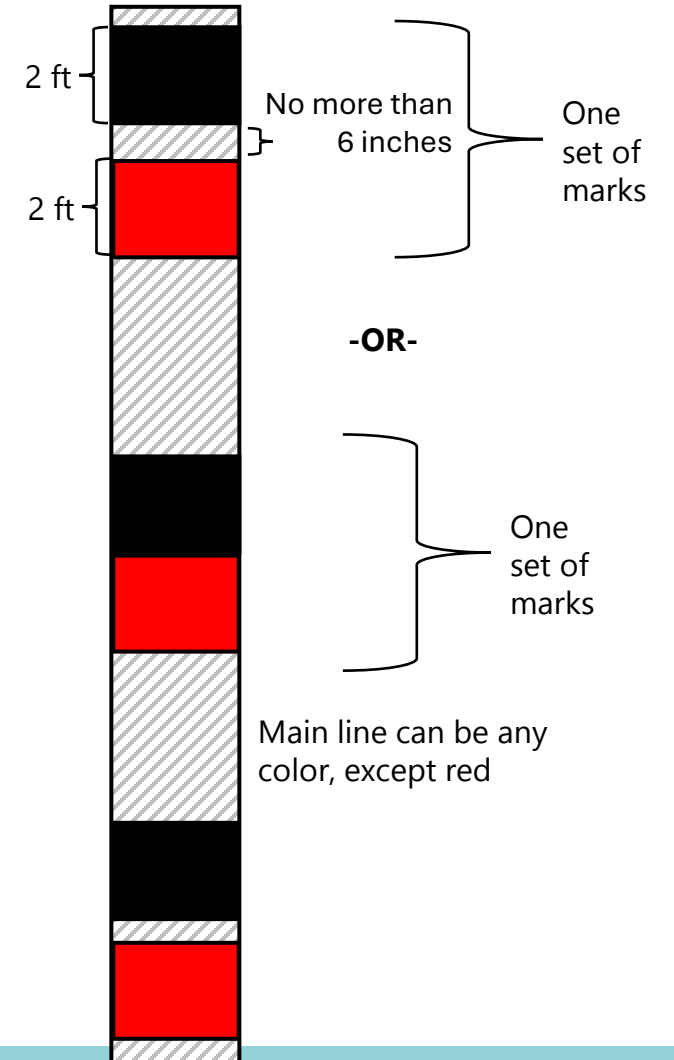
One set:

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

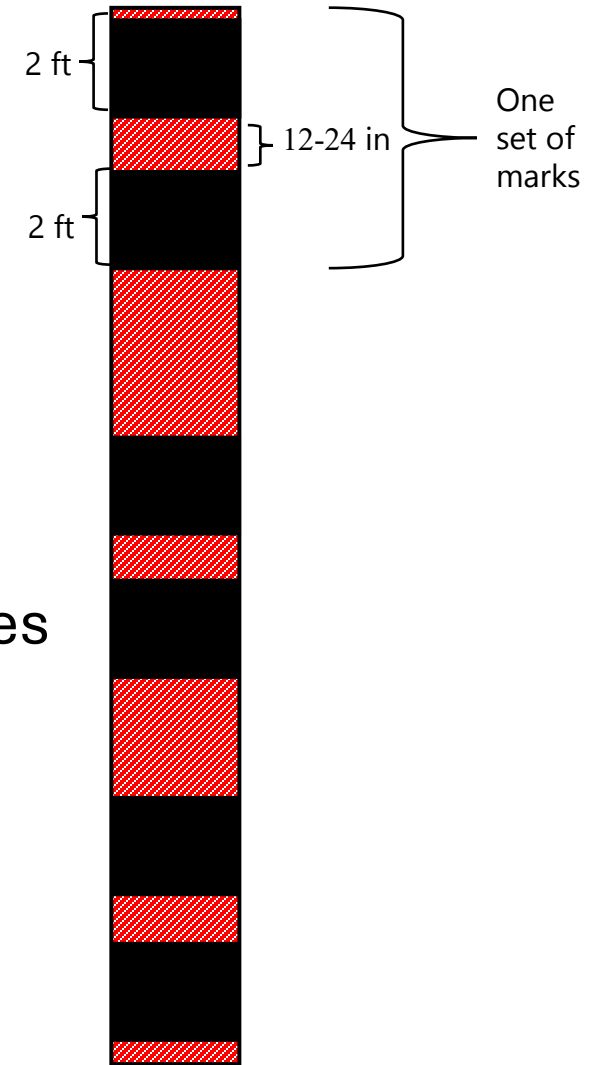
Note:

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:

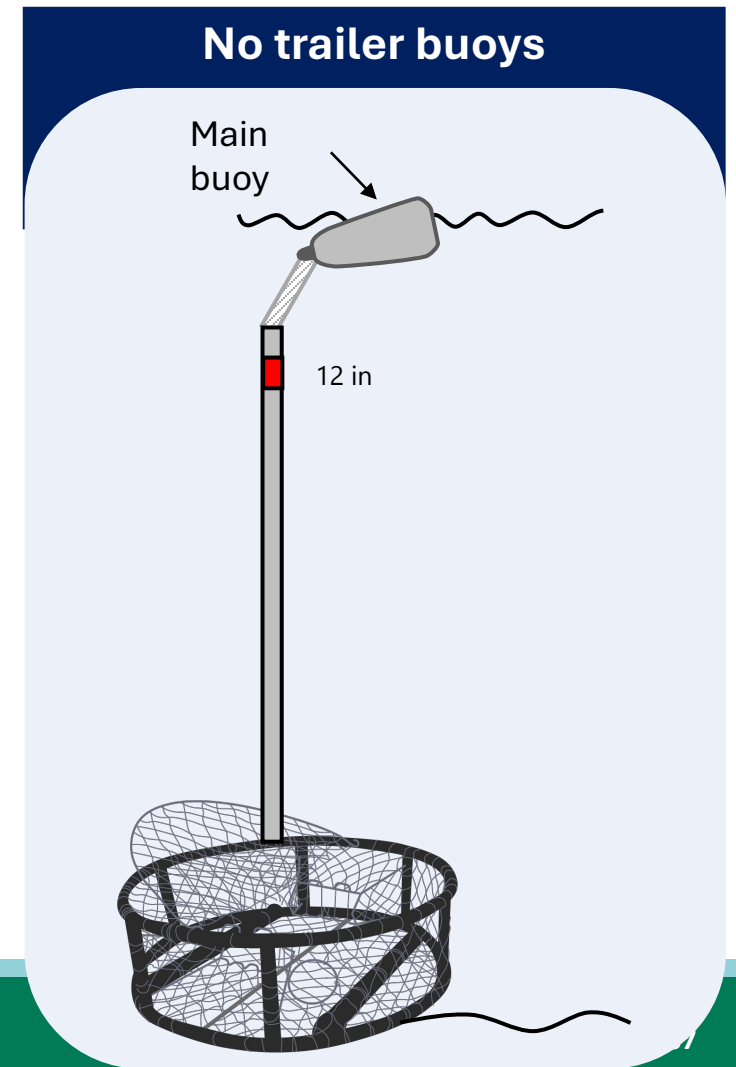
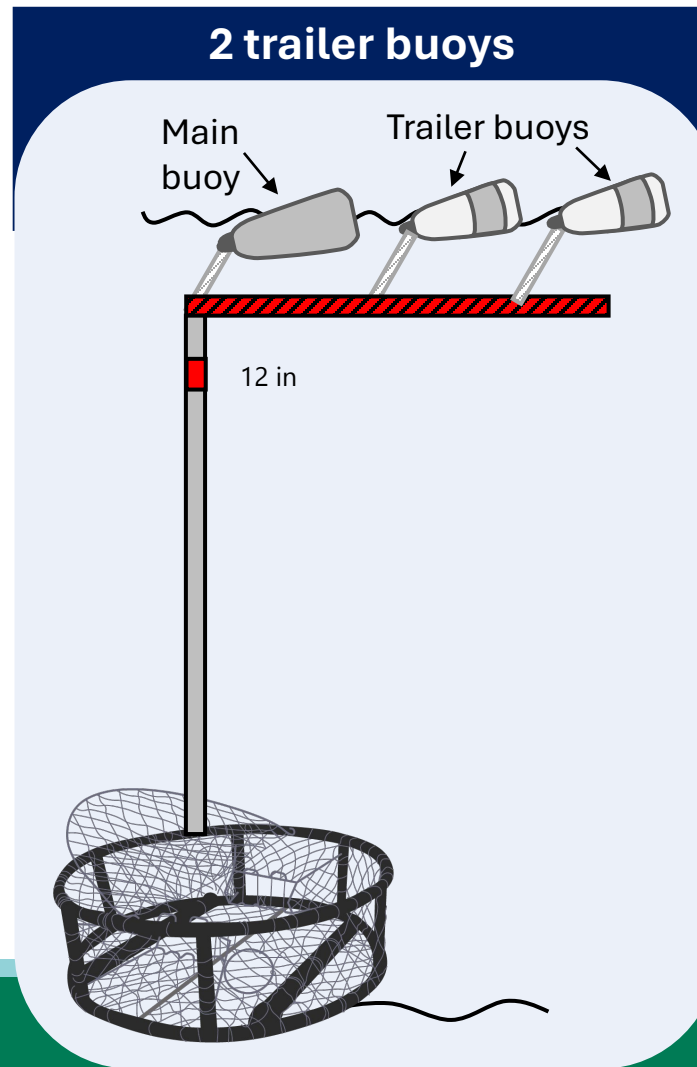
- all surface line marked (red and black manufactured line **OR** one set of marks on any trailer line connecting buoys)
- Surface line = trailer line connecting two buoys
- Buoy straps are exempt

- AND -

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

 = Marked line


 = unmarked line

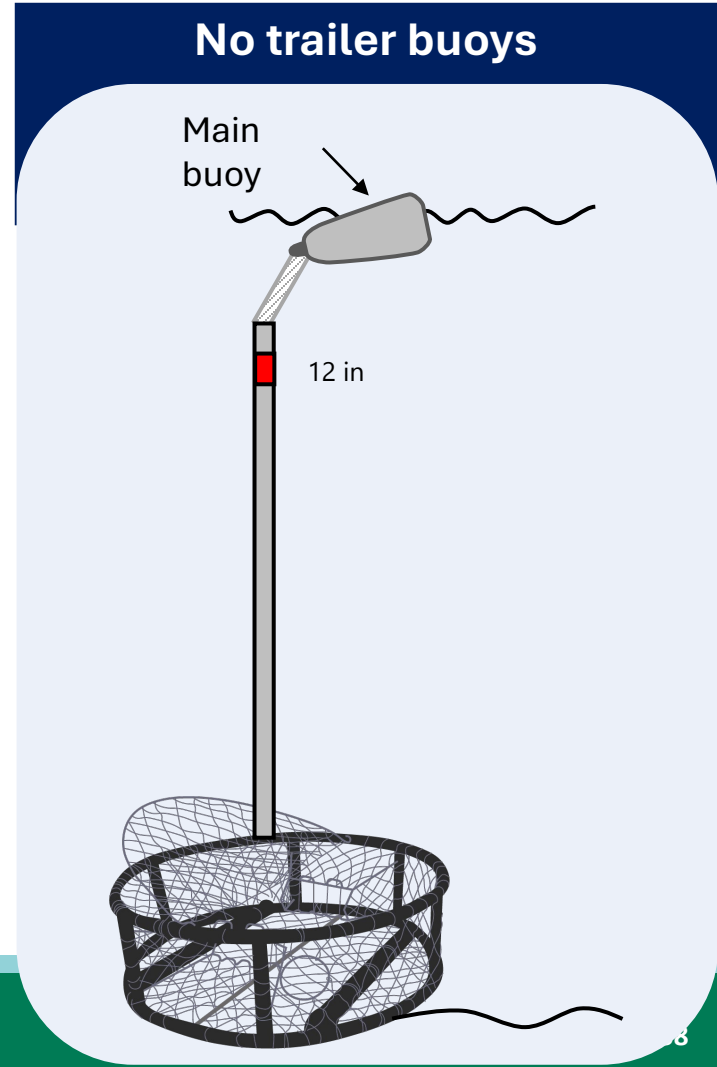
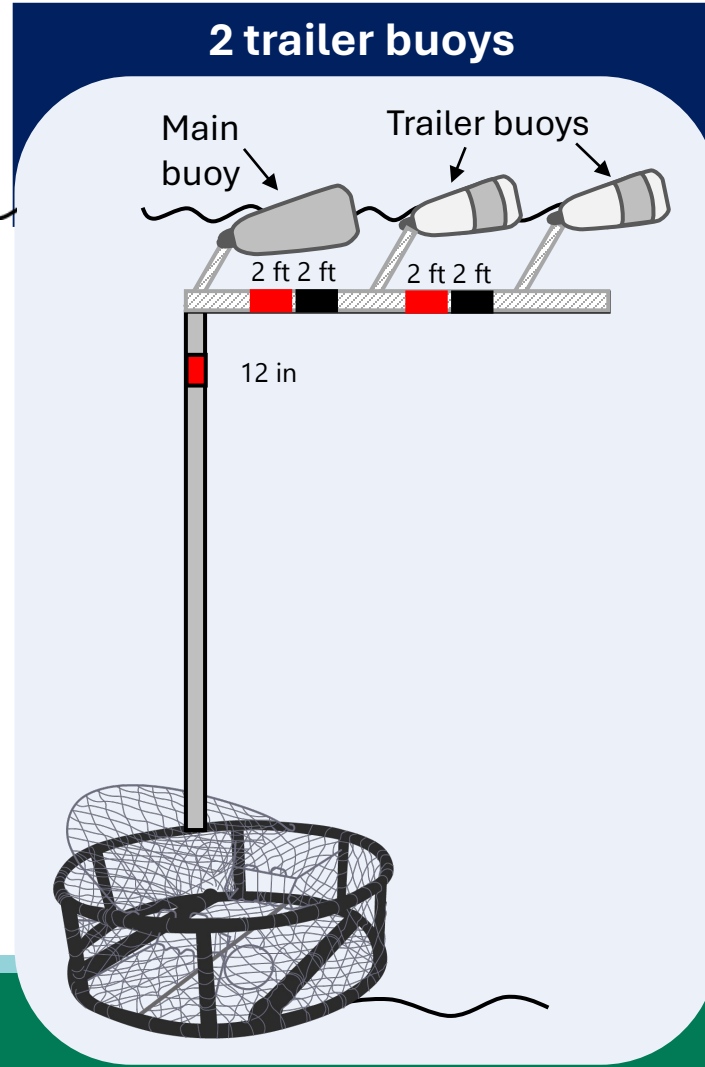
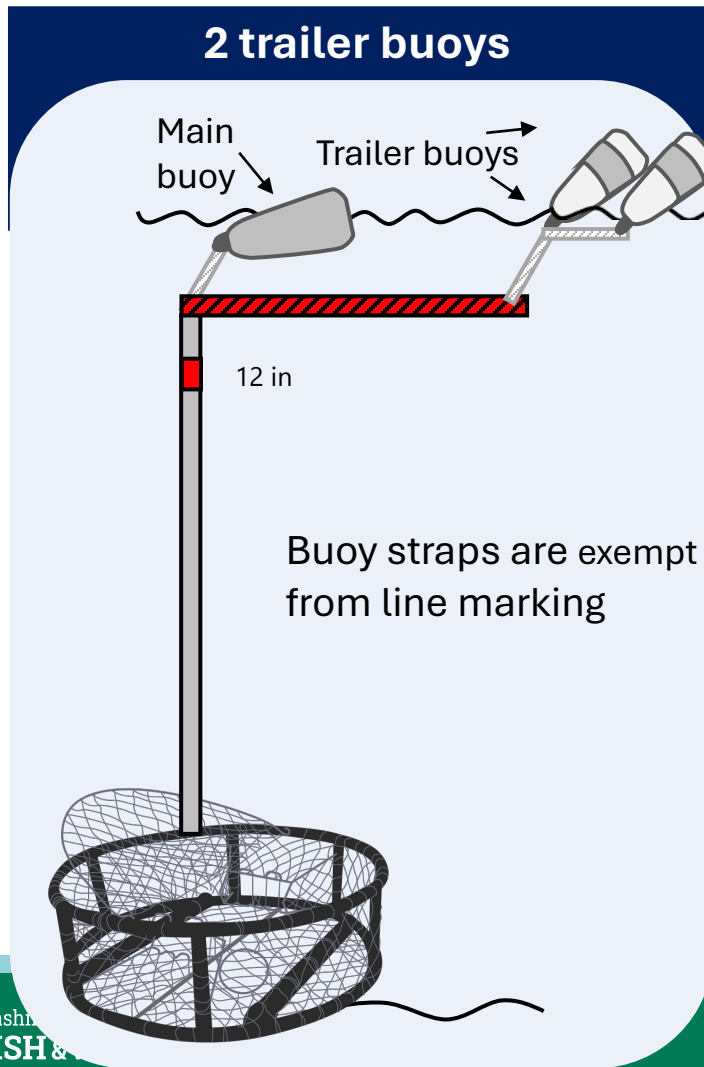


Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Surface Gear Configuration

Phase 1 - Surface gear marking

Proposed Effective Date: December 1, 2025

 = Marked line  = unmarked line



Proposed WA D Crab Line Marking: Main Line Gear Configuration

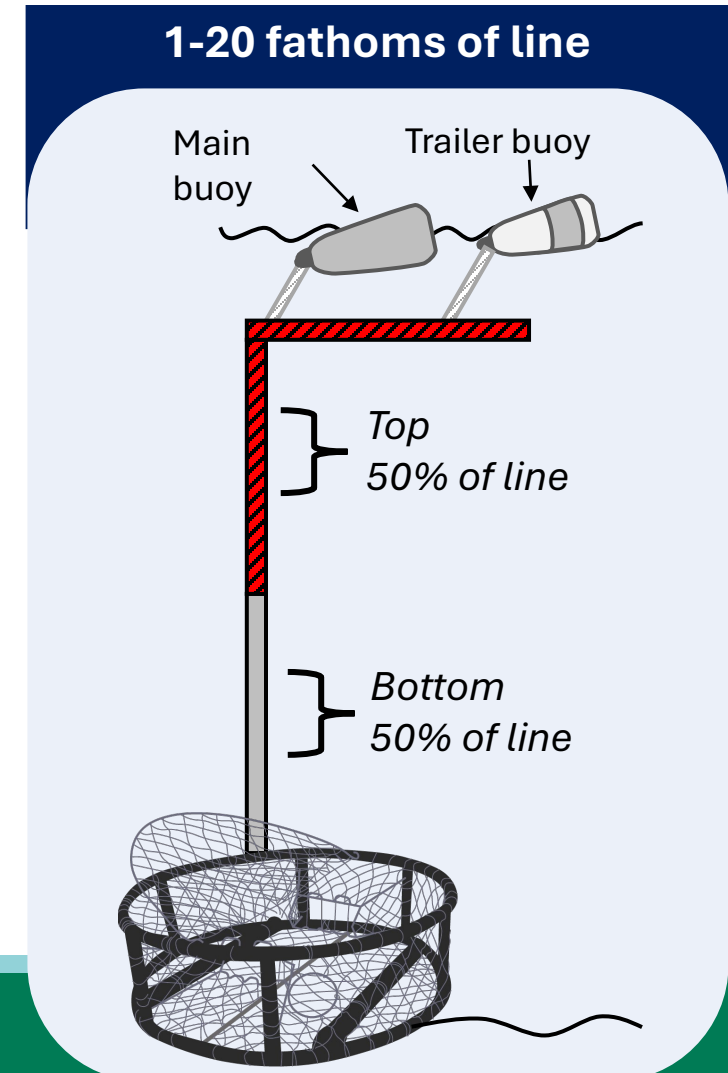
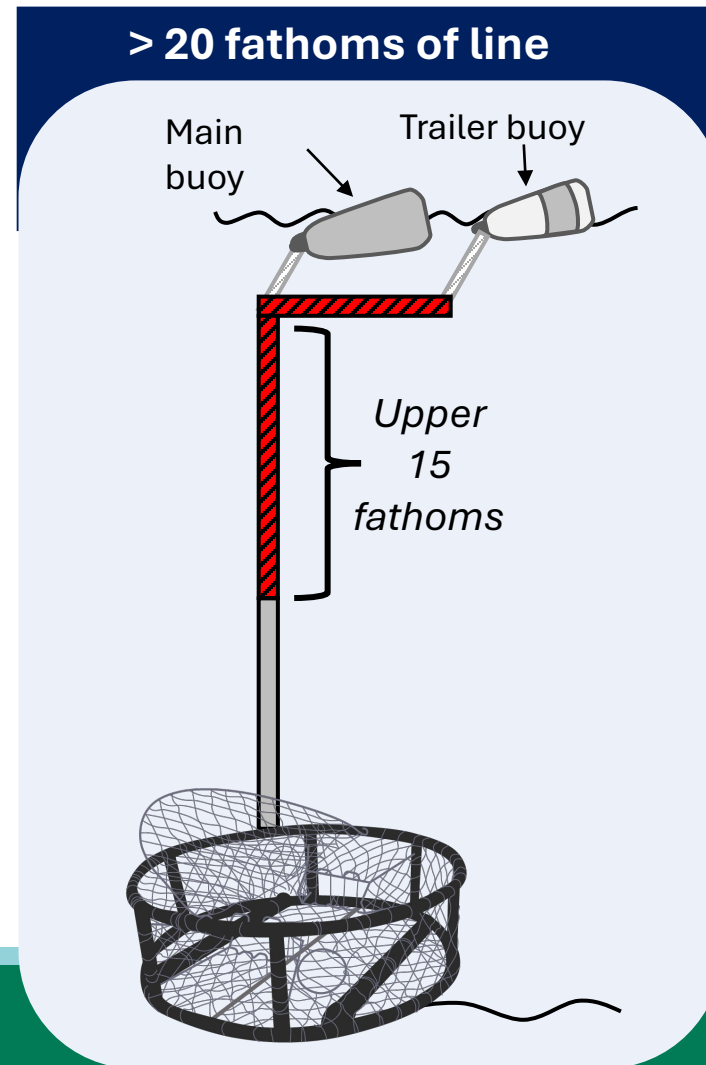
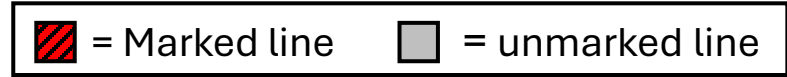
Phase 2 - Main line marking

Proposed Effective Date: December 1, 2028

Vertical line marking

When fishing a total line length:

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



Surface gear maximum allowance

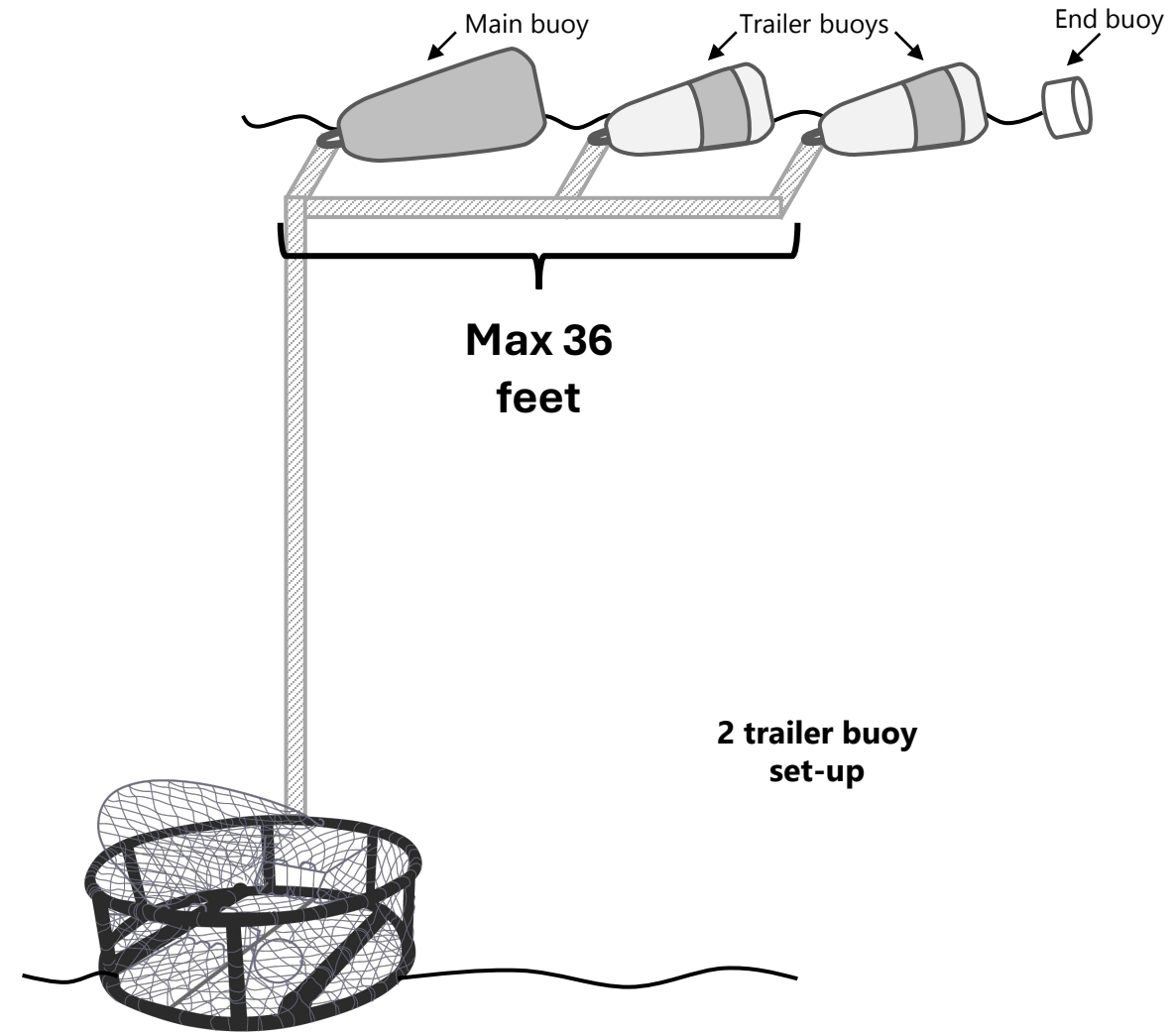
Proposal to implement with phase 1 of line marking (Dec 1, 2025)

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:

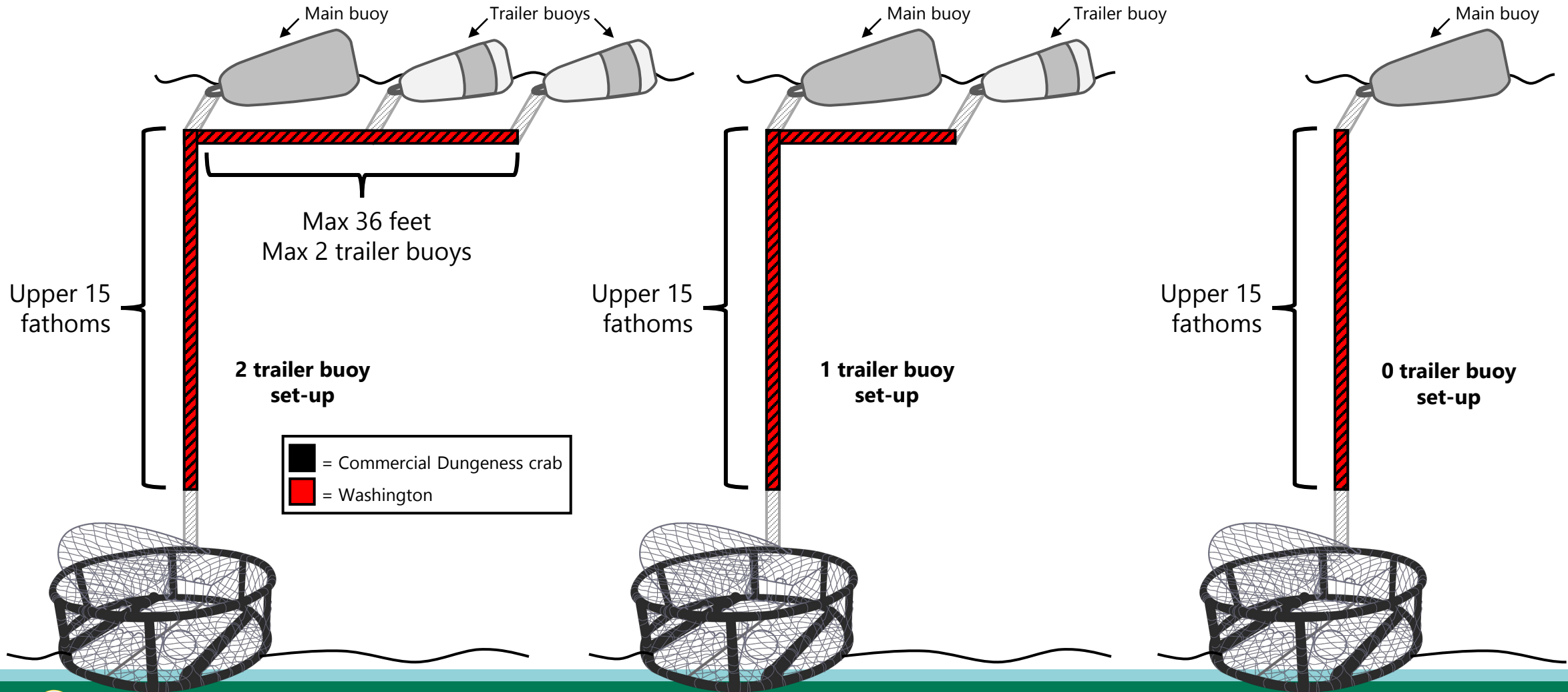
1. Maximum of 36 feet (6 fathoms)



Draft Washington Commercial Dungeness Crab Line Marking Proposal

Manufactured line

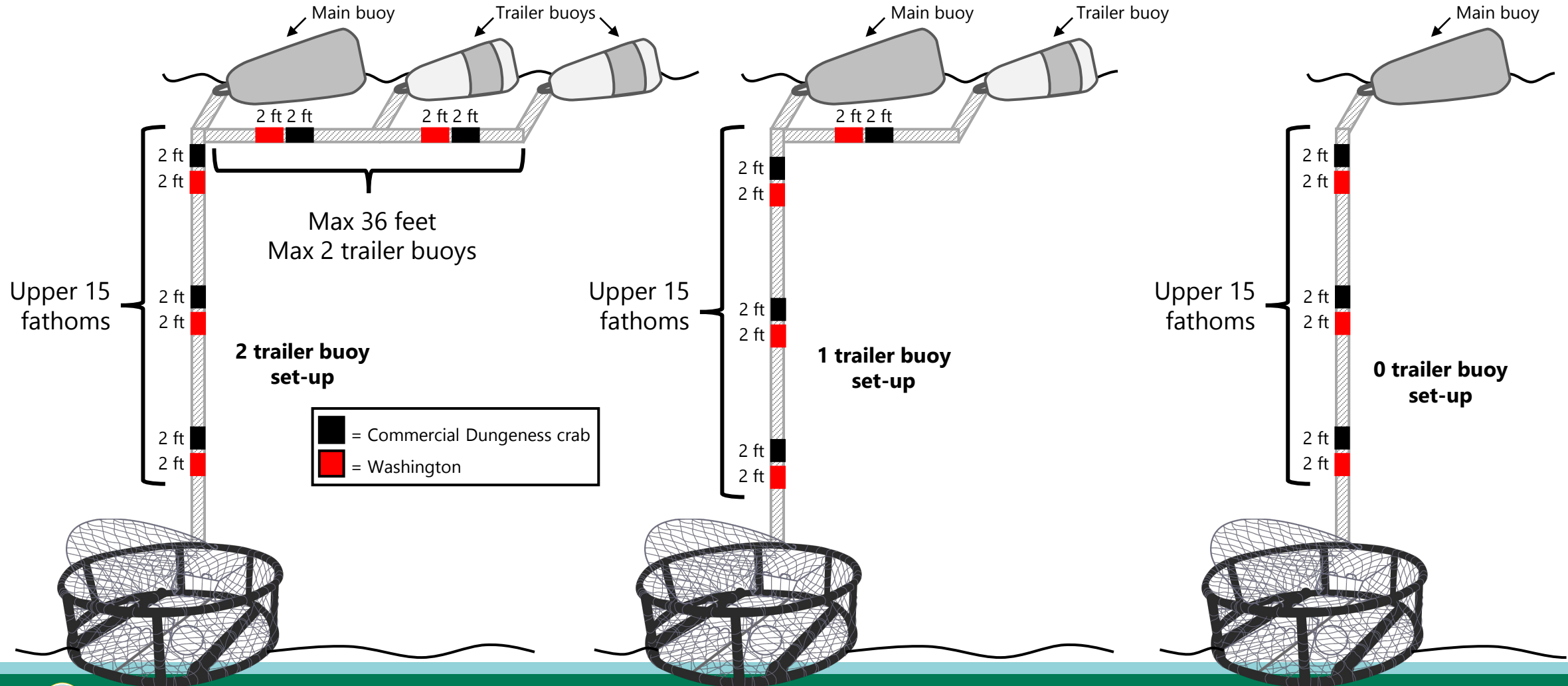
Manufactured red and black line used for any **surface line** *and* the **upper 15 fathoms of the main line**



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

