



Crabber Towboat Lane Agreement Spring 2025 Biannual Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 7th, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Zoom and Englund Marine Astoria

[Meeting](#) recording

Next hybrid meeting date: Friday, November 7th, 2025

Action items in red.

Attached documents:

- Towlane posters
- Lane change adoption

Attendees (26):

Brandii O'Reagan (Washington Sea Grant), Natasha Novikova (ForSeas Solutions), Tia Gaundry (USCG), Mike Rudolph (USCG), Chris German (USCG), John Moriarty (USCG), Jill Lazo (USCG), Dave Snyder, Joe Solberg (Col R Bar Pilots), Brenda Higgins (OFCC), Jeff Ferguson (NOAA), Matt George (WDFW), Tom Osborne, David Selga (Chevron), Aaron Dumler (Dept Ecology), Larry Thevik (WA Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association), Robert Maw (Washington Sea Grant), Troy Wakefield, Nick Preston (Sauce), Peter Schrappen (AWO), Jamie Fuller (WDFW), Tanner Etherton (California Sea Grant), Bannon Crowley (AWM), Branden Burger Wayne (Chevron), Dan Nutt (Col R Bar Pilots), Jenna Keeton (Washington Sea Grant)

Partner Updates and Discussion:

Minimal issues reported. Outreach needs to be conducted along the entire West Coast. From one incident, crabbers worked with ODFW to return tags and fill out a claims form. N complaints north of Klipsan. There was an incident off Grays Harbor County at the beginning of the crab season when a tug ran outside of the lanes. There is more gear found inside the Columbia River than normal near C buoy. Although this is not in the towlanes, there could be further outreach to fishermen to aid safe navigation in the river.

Vote on Proposed Lane Change:

The amendment offered by Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee to the proposed lane change was approved (2-0). **This change will be announced through MSI announcement through USCG John Moriarty.**

Towlane Data Download Demonstration:

wsg.washington.edu/crabber-towboat



WSG staff created a stream cast and recorded a tutorial to share on WSG website for guidance on how to download from WSG and how to import into navigation software. These videos will be hosted on the WSG website.

Educational Poster and Flier:

WSG shared the final educational poster. WDFW requested rack card sized educational fliers to pass out during hold inspections. Jill Lazo (USCG) can share posters on April 9 at an event in Puget Sound.

West Coast Tug Database:

For issues of tug non-compliance within the towlanes, OFCC developed a list of contact information for West Coast tug companies. This list cannot be hosted on the WDG website. Aaron Dumler (Dept. Ecology) is looking into whether this database can live on their website.

Navigation software change & thumb drives:

Thank you to the Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee for funding a \$2,958 grant to support the cost of changing the towlanes on various navigation software platforms and printing new thumb drives. OFCC is the contractor.

Crabber-Towboat Lane Agreement Valuation:

The group discussed the values used in a WSG valuation equation for the total cost to the crab and tug industries through use of the Crabber-Towboat Lane Agreement. Costs associated to gear will be shared by Matthew George (WDFW).

If you were in attendance, please fill out this survey to provide WSG with feedback:

<https://forms.gle/JaRuevDCKwrnkqiY8>



West Coast Obstructions and Navigation Update (WCONU) Spring 2025 Biannual Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 7th, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Zoom and Englund Marine Astoria

[Meeting recording](#)

Next hybrid meeting date: Friday, November 7th, 2025

Attached documents:

- Commercial Dungeness Crab Presentations: WA, OR, CA Departments of Fish and Wildlife
- Marine Weather Update: National Weather Service
- Obstructions on NOAA Navigation Chart: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Regional Cabled Array: University of Washington Ocean Observatories Network
- Offshore Wind in CA: California Sea Grant

Attendees (24):

Brandii O'Reagen (WSG), Natasha Novikova (ForSeas Solution), Mike Rudolph (USCG), Dan Jordan (Col R Bar Pilots), Chis German (USCG), Logan Howard (NWS), Samantha Borth (NWS), Matthew Cullen (NWS), Jill Smith (ODFW), Joe Solberg (Bar Pilots), Dave Snyder, Jill Lazo (USCG), Robert Maw (WSG), Matt George (WDFW), Jeff Ferguson (NOAA), Aaron Dumler (ECY), Ellie Brauer (CDFW), Larry Thevik (WA Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association), Jamie Fuller (WDFW), Brian Ittig (UW), Natalie Dayal (BOEM), Amanda Gladics (OSG), Jenna Keeton (WSG), Tanner Etherton (CSG).

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) - Dungeness Crab in-season report

See attached PDF

Matt.george@dfw.wa.gov

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) - Dungeness Crab in-season report

See attached PDF

Jill.M.SMITH@odfw.oregon.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - Dungeness Crab in-season report

See attached PDF

Elizabeth.Brauer@wildlife.ca.gov



Q1: Were there any Humpback whale entanglements in fishing gear?

A1: Not in this season. Last year there were issues in October.

Q2: Are fishers using pop up or ropeless gear?

A2: Pop up or ropeless gear are being used as experimental fishing program.

Comment 1: Little crab product is left in inventory from last year. The domestic market for processed crabs is strong. The lack of king crab market in winter was fulfilled with D crab.

National Weather Service (NWS) – Marine Weather Update

See attached PDF

matthew.cullen@noaa.gov

United States Coast Guard (USCG) – Pacific Port Access Route Study Update

christofer.l.german2@uscg.mil

Regarding the offshore fairways, there is no new update. The timeline for a final update is 1-2 years.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Obstructions on NOAA Navigation Charts

See attached PDF

Jeffrey.ferguson@noaa.gov

University of Washington Ocean Observatories Initiative - Regional Cabled Array

See attached PDF

bittig@uw.edu

California Sea Grant – Offshore Wind in California

See attached PDF

Tanner.Etherton@humboldt.edu

Q1: Is the current federal funding freeze affecting offshore wind in CA?

A1: BOEM is in a holding pattern and following in suit with a memo received halting offshore wind leases. It is too soon to tell what impacts will be. BOEM is potentially expecting secretarial order to clarify presidential order for current leases.

Partner Updates:

Jennifer Hagen, Quileute Tribe: *As an update we are planning to deploy the two Quileute Landers again this year-same location and they will be found with updated positions on NANOOS.org in NVS once deployed. With federal funding as it is there are some long-term mooring projects that may be in jeopardy. I will try to provide updates that you can relay to others as I find out more.*

If you were in attendance, please fill out this survey to provide WSG with feedback:

<https://forms.gle/JaRuevDCKwrnkqiY8>