



## Commercial Crabber/Towboat Lane Agreement Meeting Summary

Friday, March 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Tyree Wilde, Trina Jensen, Robert Morgan, Dale Beasley, Pete Nelson, John Corbin, Amanda Gladics

While there were a few instances of tugs outside of the designated lanes this past season, the general consensus is that the existing lanes are functioning well, there are no pressing problems, and there are currently no proposed changes to the lanes.

WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife update: Just under 9 million lbs landed. Implemented changes: Starting May 1, 2020 there will be a reduced pot limit. 500-pot limits will be reduced to 330 pots, and 300-pot limits will be reduced to 200 pots. License owners that want to continue to fish after May 1<sup>st</sup> will need a summer buoy tag. The reason is to conduct an early gear recovery. Removed second period for replacement tags due to new summer tag requirements. All crab pots used in commercial Dungeness crab fishery shall be set to use only the amount of line reasonably necessary to compensate for tides, currents, and weather. Effective Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 there will be line marking that is specific to WA.

OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife update: See attached industry notice for whale entanglement mitigation issues. Close to 18 million lbs lands and ex-vessel value of \$63.5 million. Dept. of Ag. indicates that domoic acid levels are good in all regions of the state. Proposed changes in the crab fishery still has to be presented to the ODFW commission April 17th.

NWS Update: please see attached document for buoy updates. The saildrone network is a UW research project to help detect strong winds, waves, atmospheric rivers and precipitation forecasts. More information is available at [www.saildrone.com/technology](http://www.saildrone.com/technology). New format changes to NWS marine weather warnings. Now in a bullet format with what, where, when, and impacts.

OSG Update: Please help track where whales are located using the Whale Alert app. See attached document on whale alerts.

There is a research project on seismic data off the west coast. Researchers will be deploying sensors offshore for short-term period between May and August. Please see the attached document for additional information.

For the latest information on the tow lanes and to download maps and coordinates, please visit [www.wsg.washington.edu/crabber-towboat](http://www.wsg.washington.edu/crabber-towboat).