Commercial Crabber/Towboat Lane Agreement
Meeting Summary

Friday, November 17, 2017
Englund Marine, Astoria

Kevin Decker, Washington Sea Grant, provided an update on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), letting the group know that Washington's MSP process is wrapping up and the draft document is currently available for review and public comment. Attached is a fact sheet with information on how to view the document and provide comments.

Washington and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife provided an update for the upcoming crab season. Crab season typically starts on Dec. 1st but has been delayed until at least December 16th to allow more time for crabs to fill with more meat. This delay is not due to harmful algal blooms (HABs) as has been falsely reported in some of the media.

Tyree Wilde from NOAA National Weather Service provided updates on weather buoys. Buoy 46015 went adrift on 10/23 and Tatoosh Island stopped reporting on 10/25. Service dates have not yet been identified for these buoys. A new tool is available that allows users to define their own thresholds for wave height and wind speed to determine if weather conditions pose a major impact. An update on the buoys and a list of resources has been attached.

An effort was made to clarify which elements on the tug/tow lane maps were necessary, which needed to be updated, and to make certain portions of the maps less confusing. However, there was insufficient participation by industry groups at this meeting and many of these questions remain unanswered. Kevin will reach out to individuals in a continuing effort to update the maps.

The Washington Sea Grant Crabber-Towboat website will be updated with an embedded Google map of the lanes and instructions will be provided to export the lanes into Google Earth so that water depth can be ascertained using NOAA charts if necessary.

After the meeting, Oregon Sea Grant held a workshop to on seacast.org, a free ocean condition website for Oregon. Contact Oregon Sea Grant with any questions about this new tool.