

Crabber-Towboat Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2020

Action items are in red.

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Jill Smith:

- Derelict gear pot recovery program - 588 pots recovered coast wide in Oregon. Second lowest since start of program.
- Domoic Acid test zone A and B below alert level. Zone C-H no information at this time. Zone C - H is roughly Cape Meres to Oregon/California boarder.
- Second pick out test required for Astoria area.
- Changes in the crab fishery mostly for May 1st till the end of the season. Reasons are to avoid as much as possible whale entanglements. Some of the changes are:
 - May 1 summer pot tags in addition to regular season pot tags
 - 40 fathom depth restriction and reduction by 20% pot limit
 - Required taut lines best practice
 - other restrictions

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Dan Ayres:

- 2019-20 season ended Sept. 15 with 12.3 M pounds landed by state fishers with a value of \$39.3 M / a moderate season
- Combined tribal landing were at 1.8 M pounds.
- Test fishing is underway for the 2020-21 season / so far crab have not met min. meat recovery and the opening will be delayed to 12/15 (at least)
- Sudden increase in Domoic acid levels in razor clams have closed that fishery and increased testing in crab. The toxin is present in the crab tested to date, but levels so far are below the action level.
- The WA Legislature passed a new rule to allow WDFW to begin allowing recovery of derelict crab gear on May 1 (rather than Sept. 15). The rule was delayed going into effect until 8/9/20 but over 600 pots were recovered by mid-September. The start date will be May 1 going forward.
- For folks new to the group, the Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery (in WA, OR and CA) is the only fishery in the nation that congress has given states the ability to managed out from 3 to 200 miles off shore (federal waters) with no direct federal oversight, except through the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee hosted by PSMFC.
- In WA the fishery is co-managed north of Grays Harbor with the Quinault, Quileute and Makah Tribes within each tribes federal adjudicated usual and accustomed (U&A) fishing areas

NOAA, National Weather Service, Treena Jensen (see attached presentation)

- We have had some staffing changes: Tyree Wilde retired in August, and we have a new Science Operations Officer (Dan Miller). We have worked through challenges that COVID regulations have posed, and are still available

24/7/365. We have a robust service back up plan in place too if we need to temporarily close the office for any reason.

- Buoys 46050, 46243, and 46248 are operational
- Buoy 46089 was adrift, but has been recovered
- Buoy 46029 is not reporting wave data
- Nearshore buoys at Cape Elizabeth (46041), Columbia River Bar (46029), and Stonewall Bank (46050) all now carry SCOOP payload, which allows winds reported at 10-minute intervals and waves reported hourly.
- **NWS is creating a distribution email list for coastal and marine partners. The idea is that NWS Portland can provide email briefings or important updates to coast or marine policies through this email group. Please let NWS know if you are interested in being added to this list, and what kind of information you would want to receive if added it. If you would like to be added to the NWS **Marine/Coastal Partner Email List**, please send an email to Treena.Jensen@noaa.gov.**
- Please help identify which areas should be included as part of the Columbia River Bar – Main Channel: See attached presentation on page 9, and send responses to Treena.Jensen@noaa.gov.

Whale Entanglement Updates:

- Whale entanglement hotline: 1-877-SOS-WHAL or 1-877-767-9425
- **Download the Whale Alert West Coast App at <http://westcoast.whalealert.org/>**
- The app is available for both Android and Apple operating systems
- Website for more info about Leigh Torres' research on whale distribution off Oregon: <https://mmi.oregonstate.edu/gemm-lab/opal-overlap-predictions-about-large-whales-identifying-co-occurrence-between-whales>

General Updates:

- CRCFA is working on getting the Pacific County SMP CZM Certified – this will protect existing uses from being displaced like happened to the towlane off of Newport. The county SMP Ocean Section 6 has a broad prohibition on fixed structures being placed in the ocean with minor exceptions like navigation buoys; which are an existing use of the ocean.
- Be aware of the location of the weather buoys (see attached map). The CDIP buoy 46248 has been hit twice this year and broke the moorings once.