



## Industry Notice

# Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab

September 23, 2024

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### To all Oregon Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit Holders, Processors, Buyers, and Interested Persons:

On September 13, 2024, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) **adopted regulations for a line marking requirement in the Oregon ocean commercial Dungeness crab fishery** (see page 2). Across the West Coast, line marking has been identified as a key method for improving identification of gear involved in marine life entanglements when buoys, pots, or tags are not visible, identifiable, or present. The comprehensive line marking approach will be required in phases to spread the cost of compliance over several seasons. The Commission delayed the surface line marking requirement until the start of the 2026-27 crab season. The top 15 fathoms of the vertical line from the main buoy extending towards the crab pot will be required to be marked by the 2028-29 season. These regulations also prohibit specific line marks or multi-colored line that are required in any West Coast fishery from being used in other commercial and recreational fixed gear fisheries. This will help prevent attributing line from entanglements to the wrong fishery.

The Commission also adopted three minor regulations to improve season opening processes and operational efficiency in the commercial crab fishery. These include:

- **A revised Preseason Testing Protocol for the Tri-State Coastal Dungeness Crab Commercial Fishery.** Revised protocol posted here [https://dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/season\\_weekly\\_updates.asp](https://dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/season_weekly_updates.asp).
- Allowance for commercial crab vessels to transit and deliver crab into closed areas if carrying active vessel monitoring devices. Vessel captains will be required to pre-register with the department and declare each trip they intend to transit any closed area.
- **Ability for the department to issue waivers exempting vessels under state contract from derelict gear retrieval limits.** These waivers allow any contracted vessels to efficiently recover as much derelict gear as they encounter per recovery trip.

All materials for the Commission meeting are posted here <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/>.

### For more information, please contact:

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# Oregon Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery Line Marking Requirements

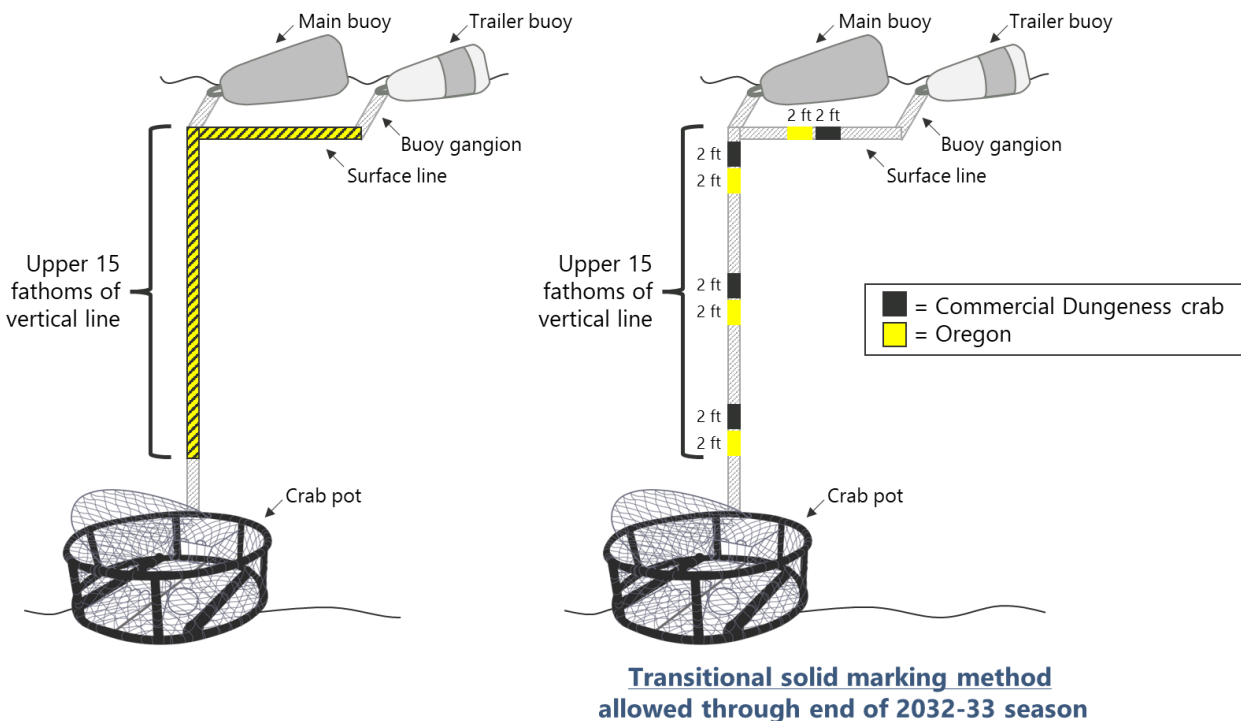
**December 1, 2026:** Dual-colored yellow and black line for all line between two buoys (excluding buoy gangions) or one set of solid yellow and black marks between any two buoys is required.

- For gear with a single buoy or no surface line other than buoy gangions, all line within one fathom of the attachment point of the main buoy must be dual-colored line or contain one set of solid marks.

**December 1, 2028:** Dual-colored yellow and black line for the upper 15 fathoms of the main line measured from the attachment point of the main buoy or three sets of solid yellow and black marks distributed with one near each end and one in the middle of the upper 15 fathoms are required.

- Up to five fathoms of line closest to the crab pot may be any color, including when crabbing with less than 20 fathoms of total line.

**December 1, 2033:** Dual-colored yellow and black line must be used to meet the surface and main line marking requirements above. Sets of solid marks are no longer permitted.



## Marking specifications

- Dual-colored line must have the majority yellow strands and at least 1/3 black strands.
- Each set of solid marks must be regularly serviced and maintained, and cover the entire circumference of the line for at least two feet yellow within six inches of at least two feet black.

## Prohibited line markings

Multi-colored line or line marks that are required for any state or federal fishery on the West Coast are **prohibited from being used on any part of the gear in other recreational or commercial fixed gear fisheries**. An up-to-date list of prohibited West Coast line markings is available at <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/entanglement/>. Please reference this list to see which markings to avoid having on your gear!