



December 5, 2017
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The Dungeness Dispatch

RECORD NUMBER OF POTS RETRIEVED

The ODFW Permitted Post-Season Derelict Gear Program recovered 957 pots this year (41 more than last year).

More than half were recovered off of Astoria. Although, gear was brought in to 6 Oregon ports from 54 separate retrieval trips.

The program has seen steady growth, and increased success, each year since its inception back in 2014. That year, a total of 646 pots were brought back from the ocean floor.

All gear was registered and tagged by ODFW or OSP, with registration forms posted on the ODFW website. This allows previous gear owners, if they would like, to negotiate the return of retrieved pots. These numbers don't reflect in-season collections. There are a different set of in-season rules for picking derelict pots and you can check those out online at <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=164615>.

SACKTON DELIVERS DUNGENESS OUTLOOK

John Sackton, with SeafoodNews.com, said this was the most positive outlook he has had for Dungeness in a while. He made the statement at the end of his 13th annual address to the Dungeness crab fishery in Newport, on November 2nd, after starting the talk by noting that Dungeness was bucking some of the trends he was seeing in the retail industry.

While pricing will be heavily dependent on the pace of landing, he said that both retail and food service were likely to expand use if supply is there.

While many in the room were chatting before the talk about recent Domoic Acid test numbers, Sackton said that he believes any effects from Domoic this year will be less impactful than in prior years.

Overall, while that is one of several triggers to keep an eye on (another is US buyers cutting back more than expected due to high prices), he said that 2018 is looking very positive for Dungeness Crab.

You can find a link to his PowerPoint presentation on our website at oregondungeness.org—and view the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoSA2wdU4KQ>.



THIS ISSUE

Heading off entanglements	2
Oregon Work Group	2
Round 1 Testing	3
SeaGrant Award	3
View from the Bridge	4
Marketing Report	4
2016-17 Website Recap	4

OUR MISSION:

- To enhance the image of the Dungeness crab industry, and to increase opportunities for profitability through promotion, education and research.



BEING PROACTIVE ON WHALE ENTANGLEMENT

Since May, a collaborative Oregon working group has been meeting to come up with strong, proactive recommendations for a growing number of whale entanglements occurring off the west coast of the United States.

In recent years, NOAA Fisheries has seen the number of reported whales entangled in fishing gear from fixed gear fisheries along the West Coast grow, primarily in Dungeness crab gear.

In some cases, that has led to serious injury and directly caused death of whales. A summary of recent entanglement information is available on NOAA

Fisheries website: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/protected_species/marine_mammals/cetaceans/wcr_2016_whale_entanglements_3-26-17_final.pdf.

The working group, set up by Oregon Sea Grant, has—among other things—created a [directive that they hope will help minimize entanglement risk off of the Oregon coast](#). They believe that “taking these important, proactive steps will help to provide continued opportunities to harvest crab and maintain the fleet’s access to the resource.”

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OREGON WORK GROUP

- Established working group goals, objectives, ground rules and voting procedures for group recommendations
- Developed an Oregon Dungeness Crab Best Practices Directive to provide industry with best known Dungeness crab fishing practices to reduce interactions with whales. The guide will be distributed to all vessels when it is complete
- Helped distribute information on who to call to report entangled whales (1-877-SOS-WHAlE)
- Developed ideas to reduce risk of whale and gear interactions. The working group is open to suggestions from people outside the group

...WHALE ENTANGLEMENT CONT'D

The Oregon working group consists of representatives of the Oregon commercial fixed gear fisheries coastwide, a recreational crabber, a disentanglement specialist, a fishing gear specialist, NGO’s, ODCC and ODFW staff.

There are a handful of options being discussed—and you can get more details on the Sea Grant web site: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clatsop/oregon-whale-entanglement-working-group>.

Their role, they stress, is to bring recommendations. The Oregon Working group does not have the authority to change the management of the fishery, but will provide recommendations to ODFW for further evaluation.

Nearly all are in agreement that they would like to see more data before a final decision is reached. One of the topics of the last meeting was addressing which data gaps deserved the highest priority.

Another item on the agenda was to discuss what elements should be included in a future survey or poll that would go out to all of the fleet.

Group members believe reporting whale entanglement is crucial to help us understand and ultimately prevent future entanglements. And, getting the fleet’s input will help with buy-in—which will be important to help show that the fishery is indeed being proactive.

“We would rather be proactive than reactive,” says Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Executive Director Hugh Link.

Whale entanglement on the US West Coast has been an increasing problem, with 62 entanglements reported in 2015 and 71 entanglements reported in 2016. Of the gear that can be identified, Dungeness Crab gear has been found to be a major source of entanglements.

The location where an entanglement is reported can be hundreds of miles from where the whale got tangled up with the gear. For example, Oregon and Washington fishing gear has been reported on whales in California and California fishing gear has been reported in Baja Mexico.



First round of testing showed meat-fill was close, but a second round would be needed.

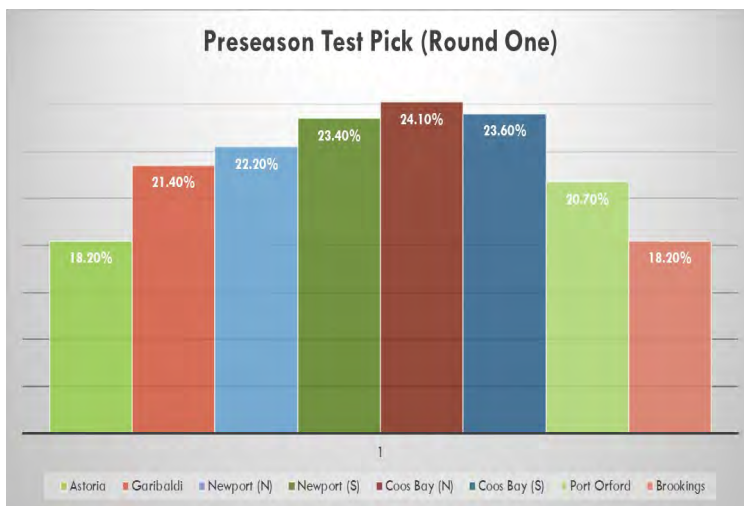
ROUND ONE SHOWS PROMISE/DELAY

Round one of the meat-fill testing for the Oregon coast reads like a bell curve on a test, with the meatiest crustaceans in the center.

But, even the meatiest came up just short the first time out. That necessitated another round of testing, that is currently underway.

Domoic Acid testing was also showing some positive signs, but will be closely monitored.

You can follow the results of both tests on the ODCC website at <http://oregondungeness.org/crabbers/> and just scroll to the bottom of the page.



Seafood OREGON Honored

Each year, the Oregon State University Extension Association honors individuals, organizations and businesses who have made significant contributions to Extension programs. This year, the OSUEA is honoring Seafood OREGON with a Cooperator of the Year Award - "in recognition of its extraordinary support and partnership."

Amanda J. Gladics, on behalf of Oregon Sea Grant's fisheries extension faculty, says "Seafood OREGON's partnership with the OSU Extension Service has greatly expanded the reach and impact of extension programming and enabled OSU Extension to connect with coastal residents and visitors through the experience of sharing Oregon's local seafood bounty."

The award will be presented during the OSU Extension Annual Conference at 6:00 p.m. on December 6 th, 2017, at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center in Corvallis.

SeafoodOREGON is the cooperative marketing, promotion and education arm of the state's four industry-funded seafood commodity commissions



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Well, another crab season is in the books. This season was above the last 20 year average and we achieved the third highest average price for the season and the highest value ever achieved in the Oregon Dungeness Crab Fishery (\$62.8m). This iconic crustacean is truly showing its value around the world.

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission is working hard every day to try to deliver that same kind of value to those that make a living fishing crab. Our mission is on the front of this newsletter and we have been working the trade shows, festivals and classrooms on promotion and education. Our research projects have been exhaustive with our latest project being a Bio-economic model that will help us to understand all of the facets of the fishery, and help to make more informed decisions about its future. This winter we have a large media campaign planned, to help get everyone's mouths watering for a crab dinner.

I have been proud to serve on this commission and plan to work hard into the future. Remember, I work for all of you. Don't hesitate to let me know your thoughts, or better yet, come to a commission meeting when we are in your neighborhood and hear for yourself what your commission is up to.

-John Corbin/Commission Chair

NWS ADDS BAR VIDEOS

You can check out the bar crossing situations visually at the National Weather Service website, through recently added bar camera links.

The bar crossing camera network can be accessed at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mfr/marine/index.php>.



THE MARKETING REPORT

While we work towards finalizing our media plan for 2017-2018, significant movement is already showing up on our social media front.

With a full-time Communications Manager we now have a more regular presence on Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest, for both the Crab Commission and Seafood OREGON, and have added Instagram to our Crab Commission outreach.

On Twitter, we have already seen impressions jump from 592 in September to just over 8,000 over a 30-day span in October and November. Twitter followers have been growing by one-per-day for the Crab Commission. Our handles are @ORDungenessCrab and @SeafoodOREGON.

On Facebook, over that same period, our [Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission](#) page "reach" rose to 48,179. The number of times that people engaged with our posts (either by "liking," sharing, commenting, etc.) was just under 12,000. That was a 31,000% increase over the previous 30-day period. We are working to spread the news about revitalizing the [Seafood Oregon](#) page, as well.

Instagram and Pinterest are in their early stages, but showing progress as well..

2016-2017 WEBSITE RECAP

Our website, at oregondungeness.org, has been used about 17,000 times in the last year by more than 13,000 people. The average person visits an average of just over two pages during their visit.

About 95% are from inside the U.S., with the majority coming from Oregon, Washington and California. And, about half access the website from a mobile device.

The most frequent user "flow" takes them from the homepage to the "how-to-buy" page.

We are continuing to work to keep the site looking fresh and updating its content with news and information.

We have also recently added YouTube video directly to our Promotional Materials page. If you shoot anything that you think would make for good promotion of the Oregon Dungeness crab industry email it to us and we will consider it for that page or social media posts.

CRAB MANAGEMENT BILL NOW LAW

The decades-old agreement between California, Oregon, and Washington to manage the Dungeness Crab commercial fishery has become law.

The agreement, first authorized in 1998, expired without replacement in 2016. But, in August, a bipartisan bill made its way to the president for his signature.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA), called the law an important milestone.

“This common sense agreement has been a model for sustainable fishery management and it has now been made permanent. I'm proud to have the president sign into law this bill that will give certainty—vital to the success of any industry—to the crab fishing businesses that support families and livelihoods in Southwest Washington.”

The law allows the three states to manage the Dungeness fishery in federal waters adjacent to their states. Prior law included a sunset date of September 30, 2016.



“This common sense agreement has been a model for sustainable fishery management and it has now been made permanent...”

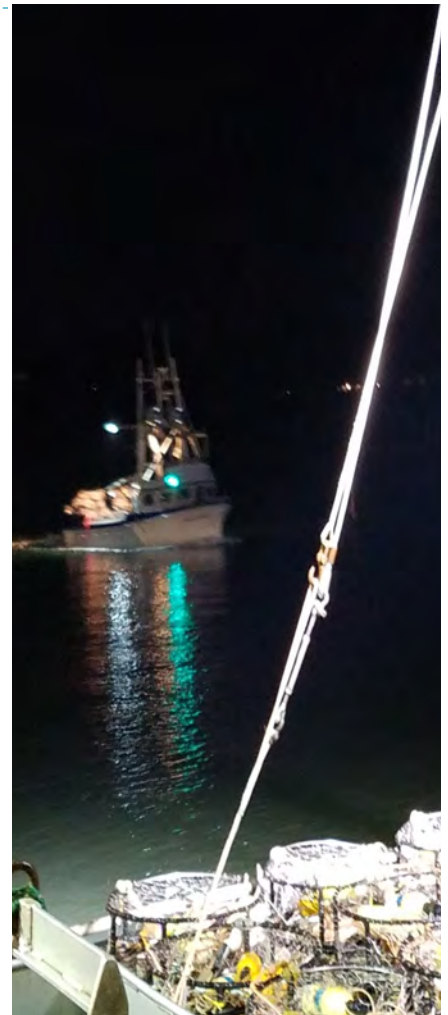
MANAGEMENT BILL CONT'D...

Without a new plan in place, NOAA was preparing to manage the fishery during the upcoming season. But, keeping the fishery under state control saves the federal government about one million dollars a year.

Crab populations vary greatly by year, depending on food availability and ocean conditions. The Dungeness crab catch tends to peak every 10 years, and can fluctuate by tens of millions of pounds between years. In order to manage appropriately, fishery managers must coordinate between states to ensure management and conservation goals are achieved.

Senator Ron Wyden said the bill reintroduces much needed stability to the industry. “It will preserve a sustainable, science-based fishery management program that keeps fishermen fishing and crab stocks thriving.”

Co-sponsoring the bill was U.S. Sens. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Patty Murray, D-Wash., Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. Co-sponsored legislation in the House was proposed by Reps. Jamie Herrera-Beutler, R-Wash., and Derek Kilmer, D-Wash.



OREGON DUNGENESS CRAB COMMISSION

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CRYSTAL ADAMS/
CHARLESTON (Processor Rep)

DAVE WRIGHT/NEWPORT
(Processor Rep)

MIKE RETHERFORD/
NEWPORT

TYLER LONG/CHARLESTON

BRIAN NOLTE/BROOKINGS

NICK EDWARDS/CHARLESTON

JAKE POSTLEWAIT/PUBLIC
MEMBER

CHARLESTON CRAB FEED IN FEBRUARY

The 34th Annual Charleston Crab Feed is returning to North Bend for the second year, after a successful 2017 run.

Posters are already making their way around the coast to announce the 2018 event. The North Bend Community Center will again be the site of the Oregon Dungeness Whole or Half crab dinners, which will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, **February 10, 2018**.

The event serves as a fundraiser for the Charleston Visitor Center. A whole crab dinner is \$20 and a half crab goes for \$16, with salads, beans, bread and beverages included. Pies and cakes are available for \$1. The price of the crab is projected at this point, subject to change based on market price.

Great prize drawings will also be a part of the festivities!

Spread the word and hope to see you there!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL ONLY, WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HYPERLINKS, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO US AT:

OFFICEMANAGER@OREGONDUNGENESS.ORG

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