



## Gear Retrieval Effort After Seasonal Ebb (GREASE) Project

### Hiring Boats for Spring Derelict Gear Recovery

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC), in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), is entering year five of a spring derelict gear recovery project that aims to remove derelict gear in-season, after April 1, to help reduce the risk of marine mammal entanglement. This project was agreed upon by vote of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission board members and the funding (approximately \$60,000) for these efforts are being covered by the ODCC.

**PLEASE NOTE** - The project **should not** be confused with the regulatory requirements to reduce pot limits and move gear inside 40-fathoms by April 1. [See ODFW Industry notice here](#) for all the details. The Oregon State Police will still be enforcing these regulations and gear **outside** 40-fathoms or without a late season tag after April 1 may be subject to enforcement action. This project is simply to help speed up the removal of any remaining derelict gear outside 40-fathoms, or any gear without late-season tags, to further reduce risk of entanglement.

#### How it works:

- Oregon commercial crabbers interested in the program can apply using the application and W-9 forms at [www.oregondungeness.org](http://www.oregondungeness.org)
- Forms must be submitted to ODCC by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, 2026 (Send via fax 541-267-5772, e-mail, hand delivery, etc.). Vessels must have an up-to-date Coast Guard safety inspection sticker and other requirements as noted on the application.
- At least one boat per port will be selected from the qualified applicant pool, with preferences for selection to include such criteria as: proven derelict gear recovery success, vessels that did participate in the most recent program, ability to recover buoy 'flowers and stuck gear, and random draw – if necessary. A state contract between the selected boat owners and ODCC will be required, and all invoices must be for services completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

- Selected boats will be paid a daily stipend of \$1,000, re-imbursed for fuel and \$100 per pot retrieved **[There will be no payment for gear recovered that is owned by the Contractor]**. Owners of all identifiable pots will be contacted to make their own arrangements to pick up any gear retrieved in a timely manner. Each port is expected to have 1–2-day trips to recover gear **[The 1<sup>st</sup> full day of retrieval must be outside 40 fathoms.]**, with the retrieval efforts targeted to start on or around April 21st (contracts will not cover retrieval efforts prior to this date). The contracted recovery trips are for that purpose alone and cannot be used in combination with any other commercial or recreational fishing trips. **[You may either claim the \$100 per pot retrieval fee or retain the crab from the retrieved pots but you are not permitted to do both.]**
- Boat operators will be required to complete a logbook of all pot retrieval locations, and all gear will be documented at the docks by ODFW or ODCC staff. The dockside registration sheets will be posted on ODCC’s webpage.
- **Everyone is strongly encouraged to report derelict gear after April 1** for targeted retrievals by calling **541-267-5810** or emailing [info@oregondungeness.org](mailto:info@oregondungeness.org). All reports of derelict gear off each port will be provided to the boats taking part in the program.

It is the hope of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission that the GREASE pilot program will help to create a smoother transition to getting all derelict gear out of the water **outside** of 40-fathoms, or without late-season tags, after April 1. However, the overall success of the program ultimately relies on the industry partners from the fleet who choose to take part, to both recover and report the gear, and their buy-in to the program. The importance of mitigating the risk of marine mammal entanglements cannot be stressed enough and we appreciate your attention paid to this program and effort to make it a success.

Thank you!

For questions or more information contact:

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OR

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