



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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February 11, 2019

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Participant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff briefed the Fish and Wildlife Commission in January on the status of whale entanglements in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery. Enclosed is a copy of the summary sheet that we provided to the Commission. As noted, we are hosting two workshops to review and discuss electronic monitoring tools to assess where the coastal crab fishery occurs and review potential new measures to avoid whale entanglements in crab gear.

These workshops will be held at Montesano City Hall on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Both meetings will include a lunch break (on your own). Montesano City Hall is located at 112 North Main Street in Montesano.

To increase awareness and help fishers learn how to reduce the risk of entangling a whale and what to do if they see a whale entangled in fishing gear, the Washington Whale Entanglement Working Group has developed a Best Fishing Practices Guide (copy enclosed). We encourage you to review this guide and employ these methods to reduce the risk of whale entanglements.

For more information, you can contact me at 360-902-2487 or Heather.Hall@dfw.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Heather Hall
Intergovernmental Ocean Policy

cc: Michele Culver
Dan Ayres