



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

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Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Participant:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is hosting an industry meeting to discuss whale entanglements, measures to reduce the risk of entanglements associated with the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery, and the regulatory process associated with implementing these measures. This will be a full day meeting with whale specialists scheduled to provide industry members with information relevant to issues facing this fishery.

Dan Lawson from the National Marine Fisheries Service will discuss West Coast whale entanglements and the process WDFW is undertaking to develop a conservation plan necessary to submit an application for an incidental take permit. Doug Sandilands, an Entanglement Response Specialist from SR3, Sealife Response, Rehab and Research, will discuss disentanglement efforts and measures that can potentially reduce the risk of entanglements and improve information collected from entanglement events. John Calambokidis from Cascadia Research will present information on the presence of whales off Washington and the West Coast, and how that changes over time and space.

In addition, this meeting will also serve as a public hearing on proposed rule changes being considered by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Montesano City Hall, 112 North Main Street in Montesano. There will be a lunch break (on your own) from noon to 1:00 pm.

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
Victoria Knorr