State of Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

August 5, 2025

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Pop-up gear learning exchange workshop

The **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)** has extended an invitation to Washington Coastal Dungeness crab fishery participants to attend a **pop-up gear learning exchange workshop** being hosted by ODFW with support from Oregon Sea Grant, Oceana, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sustainable Seas Technology. The event will take place on **Wednesday, August 27th from 10am to 4pm** and be held in **Astoria, OR**.

There is interest in pop-up gear technology along the West Coast as a potential tool for reducing the number of vertical lines in the water and minimizing the risk of whale entanglement. While pop-up gear has not been tested off Oregon or Washington to date, it is currently being tested under experimental fishing permits in California. The **goal** of this workshop is to provide members of the Dungeness crab industry, fishery managers, and enforcement partners with an introduction to pop-up gear and an opportunity for learning and discussion with crabbers that are familiar with using the gear in other fisheries.

The first half of the workshop will introduce common pop-up gear technologies and virtual gear marking, along with an opportunity for discussion on how pop-up gear is being used in California commercial fisheries right now. The second half will provide a demonstration of popup gear deployment, an opportunity for hand-on practice with the gear, and further discussion on interest in and concerns about the consideration of pop-up gear testing in Oregon. The event is free to attend and lunch will be provided. If interested in attending, **please register at https://beav.es/PopUpGearWorkshop.**

ODFW Pop-up gear learning exchange workshop
Wednesday **August 27th** from 10am – 4pm
Lloyd Aspire Hotel (555 Hamburg Ave. Astoria, OR 97103)
Warrenton Marina Working Pier (550 NE Harbor Pl. Warrenton, OR 97146)
Registration: https://beav.es/PopUpGearWorkshop.

WDFW would like to emphasize that pop-up gear is not currently required in Washington, and there are no plans to mandate its use. However, Washington fishers who are interested in testing pop-up gear may do so under a special use permit issued by the Department. If you are interested in requesting a permit, please reach out to Megan Hintz at Megan.Hintz@dfw.wa.gov or 564-215-1757, or Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066.

If you have any questions about the event, contact Justin Ainsworth at Justin.C.Ainsworth@odfw.oregon.gov or 541-609-1134 or Brittany Harrington at Brittany.L.Harrington@odfw.oregon.gov or 541-819-9246.