

Addressing Oregon's derelict crab gear problem...HB 3262A...

The Oregon Dungeness crab fleet deploys upwards of 120k crab pots in the ocean annually between the Columbia River and the OR/CA border. Due to a variety of circumstances (i.e. winter storms, shipping traffic, entanglement, legitimate loss and in some cases, abandonment) **not all those pots get brought back in to the dock at the end of the season, resulting in a 'derelict gear' problem that needs to be addressed.**

Over the past four years, the industry-funded Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC) has worked in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and independently on a number of programs (i.e. volunteer D/G recovery 'weeks', end-of-season crab pot roundups, crab pot 'bounties', etc.) that have only been marginally successful and haven't generated the kind of fleet support and participation necessary to be truly effective or sustainable.

We think legislation proposed in **HB 3262** would be helpful at this juncture, enabling us to work closely with fishery managers to develop a meaningful, industry-driven clean-up program with minimal costs and big dividends.

HB 3262 would:

- **Exempt derelict/abandoned commercial Dungeness crab pots left/found in the ocean 15 days after the close of commercial Dungeness crab season from Oregon's personal property laws.**
- **Authorize the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OF&WC) to issue permits to commercial fishermen for post-season removal of derelict and abandoned crab pots.**
- **Allow the OF&WC to establish provisions related to the disposition of crab gear recovered during the program period.**
- **Provide financial incentive for commercial fishermen to participate in post-season clean-up efforts.**
- **Encourage crabbers to bring all their pots in to the dock or risk losing them to program participants.**
- **Help clean-up coastal waters and decrease potential for gear conflicts with other fisheries (salmon trollers) and marine mammal interaction.**
- **Permit the crab industry to work with ODFW to create an industry-driven program to address an industry problem.**

We hope we can count on you to support **HB 3262A**.

Please feel free to contact the ODCC (541-267-5810 or info@oregondungeness.org) or **Joe Rohleder (Cell: 503-559-7942)** if you have any questions.