

Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group Conference Call
Thursday, June 23, 2016
9:00am-11:00am

Call Participants

Working Group: Jimmy Anderson, Doug Laughlin, Bob Maharry, Tom Mattusch, John Mellor, Kristen Monsell, Brian Nolte, Gerry Hemmingsen, Geoff Shester, Andrea Treece

CDFW: Christy Juhasz, Pete Kalvass, Sonke Mastrup, Lt. Andy Roberts, Cpt. Steve Riske

NMFS: Dan Lawson, Lauren Saez

OPC: Holly Wyer

Strategic Earth Consulting: Rachelle Fisher, Sierra Helmann, Holly Rindge, Kelly Sayce

Absent: LCDR Jason Brand, Tom Dempsey, Keith Olson

The following notes capture a high-level summary of what was discussed during the June 23, 2016 Working Group call. Highlights aim to capture the general sentiments expressed, and do not reflect the perspectives of all call participants. Once reviewed and deemed “final” by the Working Group, this meeting summary will be made publicly available on the [Ocean Protection Council \(OPC\) website](#).

Meeting Goal: To reconvene the Working Group to continue making headway on 2015 recommendations and strategies to reduce whale entanglements in Dungeness crab fishing gear and begin preparing for an in-person meeting on July 13-14, 2016.

Introductions & Review Meeting Objectives

- The Working Group introduced themselves, including new participants. Participants who have stepped down since the last full Working Group discussion were recognized.
 - The Working Group was introduced to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and OPC staff newly involved in this effort. The facilitation team also introduced new members of its team.
 - One member of the public, Dick Vaughn, introduced himself and indicated he would like to observe the call. The facilitation team acknowledged there may be other members of the public on the call and invited additional call participants to introduce themselves.
- The group re-confirmed ground rules and reviewed the objectives of the meeting:
 - Review and potentially reach agreement on Working Group charter.
 - Confirm working goals and objectives of the Working Group over the next 12 months.
 - Review and potentially reach agreement on Working Group protocols for receiving and using data and information shared by state and federal agencies.
 - Discuss draft agenda outline for in-person meeting July 13-14, 2016, including priority agenda topics and issues.
- Products and meeting summaries of the full Working Group will be publicly available on the OPC website (<http://bit.ly/CAWhaleWorkingGroup>).
- The process for replacing and adding new members to the Working Group was discussed.
 - Over the past few weeks, a number of Working Group participants have identified additional interests and perspectives they would like to see represented on the Working Group including a data analyst, Monterey Bay commercial fisherman, and representatives from the whale watching and disentanglement networks.
 - The facilitation team is actively interviewing individuals to potentially fill these expertise and is working with the CDFW Marine Region Manager to confirm new individuals who

will support the Working Group's efforts either as participants or advisors [INSERT LINK TO SOLICITATION DOC WHEN AVAILABLE].

- New participants/advisors will be invited to the July 13-14 in-person meeting.

Working Group Charter Review

- The Working Group Charter will serve as the basis for how the Working Group will operate including clearly identifying goals and objectives for Working Group efforts, communication and recommendation-making procedures, the roles of participants and advisors, etc. The charter has been developed to focus on the Working Group's work through July 2017.
 - The facilitation team requested feedback on general concepts and themes, including insights, questions, comments, etc. Additional input, including wordsmithing, is requested from the Working Group by July 1, 2016.
 - The facilitation team will integrate what is discussed during today's call, and any additional feedback received by the July 1 deadline, into an updated version for final consideration and adoption by the Working Group during the July in-person meeting. Once confirmed, the final charter will be posted on the [OPC website](#).

Working Group Charge, Objectives, and Agency Priorities

- The Working Group charge was discussed and confirmed by call participants.
- Working Group participants discussed the draft objectives and suggested a number of edits:
 - Highlight the importance of considering objectives individually and collectively, and specifically the benefits of communicating and coordinating across/between objectives.
 - Clearly identify the need to form active partnerships between the Working Group, the fishing community, and the whale disentanglement network.
- CDFW and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) priorities were discussed. While the Working Group was not asked to edit these priorities, this information is intended to help guide and inform Working Group efforts moving forward.
 - CDFW and NMFS expressed an interest in the Working Group considering how to reaching out and potentially include other fisheries in Working Group discussions and efforts.
 - The facilitation team will continue working with CDFW, NMFS, Working Group participants, and other fisheries to further investigate and identify a process for including other fisheries in fishing gear/whale interaction discussions. This topic may be included in the July 13-14 Working Group meeting agenda.

Working Group Composition

- The Working Group discussed its composition, including the need for additional expertise as participants or advisors. A number of suggestions were raised, including:
 - Adding a Monterey Bay area fishing representative and/or member of the whale disentanglement network could, among other things, help inform a process for the Working Group to be more responsive to in-season whale entanglements.
 - Add an advisor to support data analyses related to whale entanglements.
- The facilitation team confirmed they are working with CDFW to identify and potentially invite whale disentanglement network members, fishermen from the Monterey area, and a data analyst, among others, to participate in Working Group discussions.

Implementation Teams

- The group discussed the value in streamlining the Implementation Teams to help focus Working Group efforts. This topic will be included in the agenda for the July 13-14 meeting for further discussion.
- Support for maintaining a high level of transparency with the activities taking place within each Implementation Team to maximize efficiency, as well as present opportunities for other Working Group participants to provide insights and feedback.
 - Summaries of all Implementation Team discussions and activities are shared with all Working Group participants.

Recommendation-Making Procedures

- The group discussed the process for developing and forwarding Working Group recommendations to state and federal agencies, the legislature, etc.
 - Concern was expressed in the case where full Working Group meetings or calls do not have full attendance, that consensus will be deemed *full consensus* of the Working Group and recommendations will move forward.
 - The charter will be updated to reflect that the facilitation team and Working Group participants will work together to make sure recommendations are arrived at as inclusively as possible.
 - Concern was expressed that Implementation Teams may move forward with a project without support or discussion by the full Working Group.
 - As noted earlier in the discussion, Implementation Team activities will be shared with all Working Group participants. There may be cases where Implementation Team projects will move forward without full Working Group participation.
 - It was confirmed that email will be the primary method for Working Group participants to stay informed, and to reach consensus between meetings.

Attendance

- The group discussed the benefits and drawbacks of allowing Working Group participants to have alternates.
 - Concerns were expressed about maintaining consistency in the conversations and perspectives across meetings.
 - The group confirmed in the event that a Working Group participant is unable to attend a meeting an alternate will not be permitted.
- The facilitation team will work to schedule meetings to maximize attendance and ensure representation is present across interests.
 - The facilitation team will add a language to the charter emphasizing that the facilitation team will work with participants to ensure they are informed of Working Group activities to ensure discussions and recommendations are inclusive.

Travel Reimbursements

- Guidelines for travel reimbursement for Working Group meetings were briefly discussed. The facilitation team is developing a document outlining reimbursement guidelines, which will be circulated in advance of the July in-person meeting.

Communication and Information Sharing

- NMFS provided an update on the type and quality of data it is able to share with the Working Group. If the Working Group desires something more than what NMFS is proposing, it would be valuable to understand the purpose of that information and how it will be used.
 - The Working Group is interested in receiving information of entanglement events and responses more frequently.
 - The frequency for sharing data and the process for handling the data should be discussed at the July 13-14 meeting.
- The group briefly discussed data and information handling procedures.
 - Information shared with the Working Group is deemed public information by both NMFS and CDFW.
 - There was general support expressed for using data shared with the Working Group, as well as with target audiences, to raise awareness and spur discussion about what can/should be done to reduce the risk of entanglements.
- There is a need for a more thorough discussion of how information will be shared beyond the Working Group, triggers for sharing broadly or offering more information, and a clearly defined process of how that information will be used.
 - The facilitation team will develop an outline for consideration explaining information and data shared with the Working Group should be used and communicated.

Questions for Consideration During July Meeting (and ongoing)

- How to develop protocols for using information that is shared with/used by the Working Group with the public, media, and interested stakeholders?
- Will the Working Group be informed if data trends show an unusual or clear entanglement event or pattern?
 - How should the Working Group utilize or respond to this kind of data?
- How can external communications be used to reflect a unified or collective Working Group voice?
- How will the Working Group handle instances (in their external communications) when a consensus is not reached on a Working Group product or activity?

Planning for July 13-14, 2016 Meeting

- The facilitation team is drafting an agenda for the July in-person meeting and wanted to ensure initial thinking aligned with Working Group participants' goals for the meeting.
 - The Working Group is interested in working with experts to review and analyze the 2015-2016 whale entanglement data.
- Suggestion to add a discussion of sea turtle entanglements in Working Group discussions.
 - Adding sea turtles to the Working Group's efforts may sidetrack the Working Group's focus and priority on whales.

Confirm Next Steps

- The following next steps were identified during the call. Strategic Earth will check back in with the Working Group on the status of these items over the coming weeks.
 - **Working Group Participants**
 - Provide feedback on the draft Working Group Charter by July 1 at 5pm.
 - **Strategic Earth**
 - Draft Working Group conference call summary for initial review - on or before July 5
 - Develop and circulate guidelines for travel reimbursement for Working Group meetings on or before July 1
 - Continue to work with CDFW to add and replace Working Group participants and advisors in advance of the July 13-14 meeting
 - Develop materials for the July 13-14 meeting and circulate to the full Working Group via email
 - Update Working Group Charter by incorporating feedback shared during the call as well as feedback received via email/phone by July 1
 - Develop and circulate a draft agenda and other meeting materials including, but not limited to:
 - An outline detailing how data/information shared with the Working Group should be used and communicated; and
 - A process document to support the review and consideration of Working Group Implementation Teams

Adjourn