

## Purpose of the Open Forum Meetings

These discussions aim to build shared understanding and alignment around the Dungeness crab MSC certification, bringing together:

- **Crabbers, processors, distributors, and retailers** from across the supply chain
- **Government agencies and regulators** to discuss fisheries management coordination
- **NGOs and sustainability groups** to align with marine conservation priorities
- **MSC representatives** to clarify standards and provide technical guidance

## Key Discussion Topics

- ✓ **Updates on MSC certification**, current standards, and Oregon's FIP progress
- ✓ **Harvest control rules**, stock assessments, bycatch reduction, and whale entanglement mitigation
- ✓ **Financial pathways** for pre-assessment and full certification
- ✓ **Strategies for cross-state alignment** in fisheries management
- ✓ **Meeting buyer-driven sustainability commitments** in U.S. and international markets
- ✓ **MSC as a long-term strategy** to stabilize access across live and processed crab markets

## Benefits of MSC Certification to Mitigate Market Fluctuations

- **Live Market Dominance:** China's demand drives profits—MSC not required.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** MSC reduces risk from single-market dependence.
- **Processed Crab Access:** Certification increasingly needed, especially in Europe and U.S.
- **Market Diversification:** Opens new global, sustainability-focused buyers.
- **Strategic Value:**
  - Increases resilience and flexibility
  - Boosts competitiveness
  - Aligns with buyer sustainability policies
  - Strengthens tri-state collaboration
- **Bottom Line:** A smart long-term move to secure viability and future growth of the Dungeness crab fishery.

### More Information

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## ODCC & FSS Open Forum Meetings

2025 Dungeness Crab  
MSC Certification  
Tri-State Outreach





## Throughout 2025

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC), in partnership with ForSea Solutions (FSS), will host Open Forum Meetings to:

- ✓ **Engage** fishermen, processors, agencies, NGOs, and community members in MSC certification dialogue.
- ✓ **Gather** input and build cross-state consensus on sustainability goals and challenges.
- ✓ **Discuss** practical steps to align fisheries with MSC standards.

## Why Pursue Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification for Dungeness Crab?

- **Sustainability:** Maintains healthy crab stocks through science-based practices.
- **Ecosystem Protection:** Encourages responsible harvest to safeguard marine ecosystems.
- **Market Access:** Opens doors to buyers prioritizing certified seafood, in U.S. and globally.
- **Community Recognition:** Builds industry credibility and fishery long-term resilience.
- **Consumer Trust:** Provides traceable, responsibly sourced products that meet market expectations.

## Financial Considerations & Potential Funding Sources

Funding models are still in discussion and may involve contributions from:

- Industry, processors, and retailers
- ODCC, ODFW, WDFW, crabber associations
- NGOs and additional partners

Key financial elements include:

- WA Pre-Assessment costs and MSC alignment evaluation
- Comparative readiness analysis between WA & OR against MSC standards.
- Stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- OR-WA Comprehensive Fishery Improvement Project (FIP), if needed
- Full Assessment costs (CAB-led)
- Technical oversight during PA, FIP and FA



## Proposed Steps & Identified Phases

SECURE FUNDING & STAKEHOLDER AGREEMENT



**PRE-ASSESSMENT**  
Evaluate WA's alignment with MSC criteria and feasibility of joining OR in Full Assessment (FA)



**REVIEW & DECISION- MAKING**  
Determine if both states are ready to enter FA or if further fishery improvements are needed



**IF READY**  
Launch FA before July 2026 under v2.01 MSC Standard

**IF NOT READY**  
Develop joint OR-WA FIP to address gaps before FA

