

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**

**August 23, 2025
LOGE Westport, WA**



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 Fall 2027 under v2.01 MSC Standard

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

