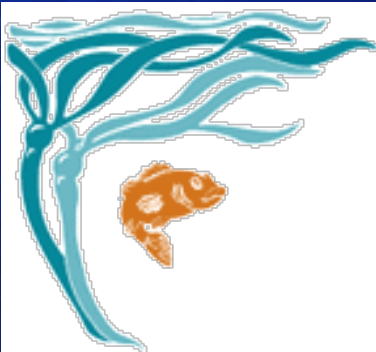


One Collaborative Solution to Lost Fishing Gear

Jennifer Renzullo

SeaDoc Society, Wildlife Health Center
University of California, Davis

Support From: *Laurel Foundation
*NFWF, Fishing for Energy;
*CFR West;
*NOAA Marine Debris Program (potential)



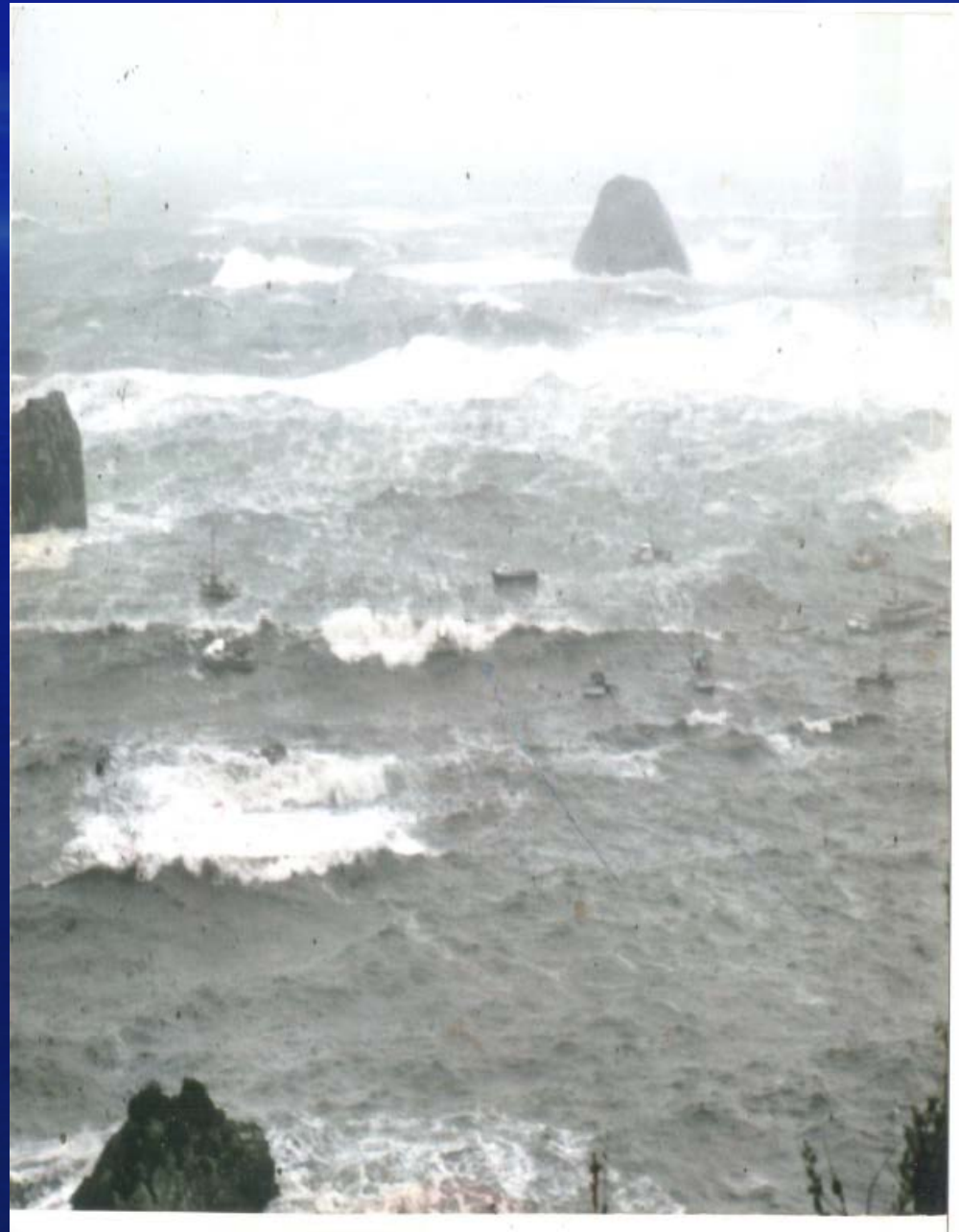
How it all started...



- Reports from salmon trawlers, crab fishermen, halibut fishermen, wardens, boaters
- Model of gear recovery built over 7 years of collaboration with local fishermen
- One man's efforts led to another...
- Fishermen are developing and leading effort

Lost Dungeness Crab Gear: The Problem

- Large ocean swells
- Boat traffic
- Kelp
- Storage
- Vandalism
- Everyone loses gear!
- Not cost effective to look for 5 scattered traps



Why Does Lost Crab Gear Need To Be Cleaned Up?

- Navigational hazard
- Old gear can entangle newly set gear
- Interferes with other fisheries
- Ghostfishing
- Lines can entangle large cetaceans

Understanding the co-occurrence of large whales and commercial fixed gear fisheries off the west coast of the United States. ~Saez et al



Second whale caught in fishing gear freed off California coast



Photo provided by: North Coast Marine Mammal Center

By Lori Preuitt , NBCBayArea.com

May 10, 2012

A second gray whale entangled in fishing gear along the California coast has been freed.

The latest whale was spotted Tuesday afternoon in Humboldt Bay — south of Eureka, Calif. — with crab pots hanging from its tail fluke.

Methods

NMFS Fishing For Energy

- 3 boats selected to recover gear
- Paid \$50/pulled trap, \$75/pumped trap
- Fuel reimbursed
- Locations of gear reported by charter vessels and sport fleet
- Gear sold back to owner for same price
- Free disposal for all unwanted fishing gear





Crab Gear.mov

Northern California Crab Gear Retrieval Program Results

- Trinidad = 6 days , Craig Goucher
- Eureka = 3 days, Kevin Pinto
- Crescent City = 11 days, John Beardon
- 323 traps pulled
- 342 traps pumped
- 72 buoys and line
- Total = 665 traps recovered
- Representing 65 different boats!



Financials

- Total grant \$109,000
- HFMA subawarded \$50,000 for gear retrieval costs, storage, hoist/forklift, fuel, etc.
- \$25,822 earned through trap buyback



Successes and Challenges

- Feedback from fishing community has been positive
- Effectively cleaned the majority of the Humboldt and Del Norte County coastline
- Positive feedback from other fisheries
- Current legislation does not require payment...



What now?

- Expanding program to Bodega Bay, San Fran, and Half Moon Bay.
- Modifying methods: 1 trap price, no fuel reimbursement, no observer in ports that participated last year. All gear sales will be handled by fishermen.
- DCTF voted almost unanimously to develop a permanent GRP.
- DCTF EC formed a small working group led by CDFW Enforcement to write a proposal: CA vs. WA / hybrid





Thank you!

The F/V Second
Wind:
Captain Craig
Goucher, Adam
Hughes, Travis
Velas

Thank You!



F/V Stormy II: Captain John Beardon, Carl Wakefield,
Bob Banks

Thank You!

The F/V Seaisla:
Captain Kevin
Pinto, Andrew
Pimentel

