

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
For more information call Mitch Vance at 541-867-0300 ext. 233
Internet: www.dfw.state.or.us



Notice to the Commercial Dungeness Crab Fleet:

Friday, December 9, 2005

Commercial ocean crab season opener set.

The commercial ocean Dungeness crab season from Point Arena, California to the Canadian border will open at 12:01 am December 31, 2005. The ocean recreational crab fishery will also open at that time.

The season was delayed for an additional 15 days to allow adequate improvement in crab meat quality in various areas in Washington, southern Oregon, and northern California. The decision to forego the start of the season until December 31 was supported by all states with feedback from industry advisors. Concerns about broad and scattered softshell areas supported a unified delay and a single opening date.

Presoak times are set by individual states' laws. Oregon and Washington have a 64 hour presoak, and California will have a 36 hour presoak. The presoak will begin at 8:00 a. m. on December 28, 2005 in all waters from shore to 200 miles north of the Oregon / California border. The presoak in all California state and federal waters from Point Arena to the Oregon border will begin at 12:00 noon on December 29, 2005.

Hold inspections will be conducted on Friday, December 30. Any vessel making crab landings in Oregon between December 31 and January 30 must be certified to have been free of Dungeness crab on December 30. Oregon staff will not be conducting hold inspections in Crescent City, California or in southern Washington. Contact your local Oregon State Police office for schedules.

For vessel hold inspections please call the Oregon State Police:

Astoria: (503) 325-5515
Coos Bay: (541) 888-2677
Gold Beach: (541) 247-6641
Newport: (541) 265-5354
Tillamook: (503) 842-2899

Another round of meat recovery testing was conducted in all three states the week of December 5. Test results for all three states will be available on the website of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (<http://www.psmfc.org/crab/>).

For general questions call Mitch Vance or Cyreis Schmitt in the Newport MRP office at (541) 867-4741. The media contact is Brandon Ford at (541) 867-4741.

For questions specific to your area, contact your local MRP field office:

Astoria Marine Field Lab (503) 325-2462
Charleston Field Office (541) 888-5515
Brookings Field Office (541) 412-7364

Further information concerning the season opener can also be found on the ODFW website <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/>