



## Coastal Dungeness crab Industry Survey

Summer 2012

### General Information:

- 1. License Number** (please provide your coastal Dungeness crab license number to avoid duplication)

- 2. Area Fished**

Do you generally start your season in the area south of Klipsan Beach or north of Klipsan Beach (check one):

- North of Klipsan Beach  
 South of Klipsan Beach

- 3. How many coastal commercial crab licenses do you own?**

Washington:

Oregon:

California:

- 4. Oysterville Line**

#### Issue:

The current season opening and fair start structure includes opening the area between Klipsan Beach (46°28.0' N. lat) and Oysterville (46°33.0' N. lat.) to fishers who started their fishery south of Klipsan Beach ten days after the area north of Klipsan Beach opens. The original rationale for the Oysterville line was to provide some expansion of the fishing grounds available to fishers that start their season in the area south of Klipsan Beach after the northern area had opened while also providing fishers that participate in the delayed northern opener ten "fair start" days of fishing opportunity. In recent years, this opening has created a drastic effort shift into a relatively small, five mile area resulting in crowding and gear conflicts. In addition, the intent to provide a fair start in this area is impacted in years when the northern opening is affected by prohibitive weather.

#### Proposal:

To alleviate crowding and gear conflict in the five mile area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville and provide some assurance that the intent of the fair start is upheld, a range of options are proposed below.

Option 1) Status quo, no change to the current fair start structure; Option 2) would create one line, two and one half miles north of Klipsan Beach at 46° 30.5' N. Lat. that would separate the southern and northern opening areas and add ten days to the 35 day fair start in the area north of the new line. Option 3) would create one line, one mile north of Klipsan Beach at 46° 29.0 N. Lat. that would separate the southern and northern opening areas and would add five days to the 35 day fair start in the area north of the new line. In Options 2 and 3 the additional days added to the fair start days would provide some compensation for the loss of fishing grounds by moving the Klipsan line north and some assurance that the intent of the fair start would be maintained when the northern opening is impacted by poor weather.

**Option 1:** Status Quo; Continue to use the line at Oysterville and implement fair start provisions that allows fishing between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville ten days after the area north of Klipsan Beach opens and permits fishing north of Klipsan Beach thirty-five days after the area north of Klipsan opens.

**Option 2:** Establish a new line that is half way between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at 46° 30.5' N. Lat. and implement fair start provisions that permits fishing north of 46° 30.5' N. Lat. for fishers that begin south of 46° 30.5' N. Lat. forty-five days after the area to the north opens.

**Option 3:** Establish a new line that is one mile north of Klipsan Beach at 46° 29.0' N. Lat. and implement fair start provisions that permits fishing north of 46° 29.0' N. Lat. for fishers that begin south of 46° 29.0' N. Lat. forty days after the area to the north opens.

I support (check one):

Option 1  Option 1b  Option 2

Comments:

**5. Using pot limits as a tool to negotiate the opening date of the fishery in the area north of Klipsan Beach.**

**Issue:**

The state season opening in the area north of Klipsan Beach is dependent on the results of pre-season test fishing and state-Tribal negotiations. In years when shell condition is

poor and the Tribal fishery is delayed, WDFW has proposed using a temporary reduced pot limit as a negotiation tool. A reduced pot limit for a temporary period of time could result in an earlier opening of the state season and might be particularly beneficial in years where the state season could be delayed past January 15. WDFW has surveyed the fleet on this issue in the past with the results split down the middle. We are interested to know if your position on this issue has changed.

It is likely that the specifics of how we would use a temporary reduce pot limit to achieve an earlier state season opening date would have to be considered on a case by case basis after we have some preliminary information from coastwide pre-season testing and our state-Tribal negotiations. However, to help evaluate the extent that you might support a temporary reduced pot limit two situational scenarios are described below. The first scenario contemplates a shorter period of time that the temporary reduced pot limit would be in place in exchange for a season opening approximately one week earlier than if the pot limit were not in place. The second scenario proposes a temporary reduced pot limit that would be in place for a longer period of time and result in a state season opening approximately two weeks earlier than if the pot limit were not in place. **The dates in the scenarios are strictly hypothetical and are only meant to help us evaluate your support for a temporary pot limit that is in place for a shorter and/or longer time frame.** Both of the scenarios propose the same temporary reduced pot limit which would be 400 pots for those with a permanent pot limit of 500 and 250 pots for those with a permanent pot limit of 300. This is the same temporary pot reduction that is in place for the season opening in the area south of Klipsan Beach until the area north of Klipsan Beach opens.

**Scenario 1 (dates are examples only) :** Based on pre-season testing and state-Tribal negotiations the state season is scheduled to open on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in the area north of Klipsan Beach but, if the state fishery operates with a temporary reduced pot limit through the end of February, the state season could open on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Do you support a temporary reduced pot limit under this scenario? (check one)

Yes  No

**Scenario 2 (dates are examples only):** Based on pre-season testing and state-Tribal negotiations the state season opening is scheduled to open on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in the area north of Klipsan Beach but, if the state fishery operates with a temporary reduced pot limit through the end of April, the state season could open on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Do you support a temporary reduced pot limit under this scenario? (check one)

Yes  No

Comments:

## 6. Buoy tags

### Issue:

WDFW implemented a two year buoy tag program to alleviate increasing costs to fishermen. The program was implemented with the understanding that if it compromised WDFW's ability to enforce the pot limit that we would return to a one season buoy tag. After being in place for two seasons, the enforcement program is concerned that enforceability of the pot limit is significantly reduced during the second season. In addition, many crab industry members have commented that they would prefer to go back to a one year tag. Industry members have said that the program is too much of a hassle for the cost savings and expressed concerns about cheating with regard to the number of replacement tags requested for the second season. **Based on this input, WDFW intends to go back to one year buoy tags beginning with the 2013-2014 season.** The two year buoy tags that are currently in use will be good through the 2012-2013 season. You will be required to report tags lost during the 2011-2012 season in order to receive replacement tags for the start of the 2012-2013 season. **Please provide your input on buoy tags below.**

Comments: