



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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January 6, 2011

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fisher:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with final details relative to the 2011-2012 coastal Dungeness crab fishery including information on the opening of the state fishery north of Destruction Island and the Quinault Special Management Area.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has finalized management agreements with the Makah, Quileute and Quinault Tribes. The specific details of locations of the agreed to Special Management Areas (SMA), and the dates they are closed to non-tribal fishers are provided below.

The harvest management plan with the Quileute tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15th prior to opening the state fishery. Weather and fishery data have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers and we agree that the 20 fishable day criteria have been met and that the opening of the state fishery north of Destruction Island can occur in conjunction with the opening of the area north of Klipsan on January 24, 2012 preceded by the same pre-set period and hold inspection schedule.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the management measures described below before you begin your fishing operations and stay informed relative to additional changes.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:

Quinault:

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to state fishers beginning at 12:01 AM January 24, 2012. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers through May 31, 2012.

The Quinault **primary SMA** is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00 N. Lat. – 124° 20.70 W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00 N. Lat – 124°34.00 W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124° 11.20' W. Lon.

A Quinault **secondary SMA** (SSMA) will be established on June 1, 2012 to include the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°20.00' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°32.40' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°11.20' W. Lon.

When the area between Split Rock and Raft River opens, state fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area. Specific details regarding SMA openings and pot limits will be made available prior to opening.

Quileute:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning immediately upon the opening of the state fishery in the area from Destruction Island to U.S. Canadian border. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2012.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat - 124°40.40' W. Long.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat - 124°49.00' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: (Destruction Island); 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124° 24.43 W. Long.

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2012, through May 31, 2012. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers immediately upon the opening of the state fishery in the area between Destruction Island and U.S. Canadian border and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 22, 2012.

There will be a 200-pot limit in the SMA for the first 30-days following the opening of the SMA to state fishers. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15N. to 48°19.50N. east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner; Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner; 48°19.50 N. Lat. – 124°50.45 W. Long.
- Southwest Corner; 48°02.15 N. Lat. – 124°50.45 W. Long.
- Southeast Corner, 48°02.15 N. Lat. – 124°41.00 W. Long.

OPENING DATES AND FAIR START PROVISIONS:

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and the US Canada Border will open at 12:01 am, January 24, 2012.**
- A **64-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am January 21, 2012.
- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on January 23, 2012.
- Temporary pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach will be removed at 8:00 am January 21, 2012.
- Vessels that participate in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 24, 2012 are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

Fair Start Provisions:

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Vessels that fish between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on February 3, 2012**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to U.S. - Canadian Border:** Vessels that participate in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and U.S. - Canadian border at **8:00 am on February 28, 2012.**

Other Requirements:

- a. Vessels not designated on a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license are permitted to transport or deploy up to 250 pots during the pre-soak period. The primary operator of the vessel associated with the pots being transported must be aboard the vessel while they are being deployed.
- b. All license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- c. Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling 360-581-3337, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situations will require notification.

- a. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
- b. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.

- d. A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through February 29, 2012.

- e. WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.

Thank-you to the Coastal Dungeness crab Advisory Board and industry members who provided valuable input and support during this year's test fishing and season setting process. We look forward to discussing other important issues to the coastal crab industry with you throughout the year. I hope you have a safe and prosperous 2011-2012 crab season.

Sincerely,



Heather Reed
Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator

cc: Phil Anderson
Michele Culver
Ron Warren
Kirt Hughes
Dan Ayres