

Coast wide Derelict Gear Clean-up 2012 -- October 1st - 6th

The Crab Commission is organizing a weeklong D/G clean up along the Oregon coast to fulfill its commitment to ODFW and NOAA to work within the crab industry to solve what is seen by many, as a big problem. You've heard all the reasons 'why' from us before so we'll spare you that lecture...

During the first week of October, the ODCC will once again, pay a 'bounty' (\$50.00 for a good pot - \$25.00 for a 'junker') for stray, lost and otherwise 'derelict' crab gear brought in to port during the seven day period beginning on Monday. We know the timing is not the greatest, but we're hoping the good weather will hold and the current will be favorable.

Because of the 'loopholes' identified and problems encountered during last season's D/G program, the following parameters have been established for the clean-up and will be strictly adhered to. In order to collect any money for crab pots you bring in next week, you must:

1. **Contact the ODCC office by phone (541-267-5810) and let us know you intend to go out to recover derelict crab gear.**
2. **When you come back in, let the ODCC office know how many pots you rounded up and where you are unloading them *before* you take them off your boat.**
3. **Have someone at the plant/dock who can verify, over the phone, that you are dropping off the pots and where they will be taken for *short-term* storage.**
4. **Give buoy tag information to the ODCC to assist with reuniting efforts.**

Be aware that:

- Information left on the ODCC 'voice mail' after hours, must be verifiable to qualify for bounty payments.
- Appropriate tax forms must be signed and on file before checks will be mailed.
- Checks will be cut and sent, by mail, at the first check run after the programs ends. They will not be made available 'on demand' at the ODCC office.
- The ODCC will not assume responsibility for pots that are brought in during the clean up. Pot owners should make every effort to recover their gear as soon as they are notified.
- Multiple pot strings of gear belonging to one permit holder do not qualify for this program, and should be reported to the permit holder and/or the OSP. It is not the Crab Commission's intent to reward laziness and spend industry money to retrieve gear that is abandoned, for whatever reason, and technically 'illegal'...

As we've said repeatedly, if 'we' don't solve this problem, someone will solve it for us and you might not like the 'fix'. That time is rapidly approaching... The ODCC will be looking at Washington's end-of-season D/G clean up program (allows registered crabbers to keep any abandoned pots, deemed 'state property', that they bring in after the season ends and the 'grace' period expires) as a possible model for an Oregon solution sometime in the near future. We'll keep you in that loop...

Feel free to call the ODCC office (541-267-5810) if you have any questions.