



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Quinault Indian Nation have finalized the terms of a Harvest Management Agreement for the 2012-2013 season. The terms of the agreement include decisions on the state season opening in the area north of Klipsan Beach and the Special Management Area (SMA) structure and are summarized below. Additional information including a final update on the fishable day status with the Quileute Tribe and the coordinates for Special Management Areas will be provided in a follow up letter.

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and Destruction Island will open at 12:01 am, January 24, 2013.**
 - *The area between Destruction Island and the US Canada Border will open consistent with the area between Klipsan Beach and Destruction Island if the required 20 fishable day criteria (in the State/Quileute Agreement) have been met.*
- A **64-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am January 21, 2013.
- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on January 23, 2013.
- The Quinault **Primary SMA** will include the same boundary as the 2011-2012 season and will be closed to state fishers from 12:01 am January 24, 2013 until 8:00 a.m. May 1, 2013.

The opening of the 2012-2013 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Klipsan Beach, Washington to the Oregon/California border *will proceed as previously announced* with fishing beginning at 12:01 a.m. on December 31, 2012.

This week the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game, following consultation with the directors of WDFW and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, made the decision to extend the season opening delay in the area between the Oregon/California border south to Point Arena, California until January 15, 2013.

Below are additional details relative to the opening in the area south of Klipsan Beach, Washington that fishers who choose to fish in this area should be aware of.

SOUTH OF KLIPSAN OPENING DATES AND FAIR START PROVISIONS:

Klipsan Beach to WA/OR Border including Willapa Bay:

The coastal Dungeness crab fishery will open to state fishers from Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to the WA/OR border (46°15.00), including Willapa Bay (*note the western boundary description), on **December 31, 2012**. A 64-hour gear pre-set period starting at 8:00 AM, December 28, 2012 will precede the opening. Vessel hold inspections will be conducted on December 30, 2012, starting at noon. Fishers can begin fishing in this area at 12:01 a.m. on December 31, 2012.

- The boundary between the Willapa Bay and the ocean waters is distinguished by a straight line connecting the following coordinates:

*Cape Shoalwater: 46°44.76 N - 124°05.76 W

Leadbetter Point: 46°38.93 N - 124°04.33 W

- Fishers participating in the fishery south of Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay are subject to reduced pot limits. Fishers with permanent pot limits of 500 and 300 will be allowed to use 400 or 250 pots, respectively. Unused buoy tags must be on board vessels until the temporary pot limit is lifted.
- 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, 2013**.
- **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, 2013**.

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 until February 27, 2013.
- 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/fish/shelfish/crabreg/comcrab/coast/>

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.