



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

Contact: Dan Ayres 360-249-4628 (ext. 209)
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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW will continue the current 2,500 pound landing limit for the coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations through the end of the season, at 11:59 p.m., September 15, 2013.

It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period (Sunday through Saturday). See the list of the remaining catch accounting periods below.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Summer Fishery Management Plan calls for the implementation of management measures intended to protect the Dungeness crab resource when significant amounts of soft shelled crab are present during the commercial crab fishery.

Since the landing limit went into place (on July 21, 2013) WDFW has continued sampling crab, both at the time of landing and during shipboard ride-along trips. The specific data collected is in the attached table.

Shell condition data collected since the limit was imposed does shows improvement in crab sampled from some areas however, a shipboard ride-along trip during the most recent summer management sampling period found that more than 82% of the crabs sampled were soft shelled. **According to the terms of the Summer Dungeness crab Management Plan, this amount of soft shelled crab calls for the continuation of a 2,500 pound weekly landing limit.**

The Department is committed to following the terms of the Summer Management Plan and believes this measure is in the best interest of the coastal Dungeness crab resource and industry.

Remaining Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- August 25 through August 31, 2013
- September 1 through September 7, 2013
- September 8 through September 14, 2013
- September 15, 2013 through September 15, 2013

2013 WDFW Dungeness Crab Summer
Management Dockside and Shipboard Samples

Management Period	Date	No. of crab Sampled	Location	Type	A	B	II	III	% Hard	% Soft
1	6/17/13	100	Westport	Dockside	78%	19%	3%	0%	97%	3%
1	6/17/13	100	Westport	Dockside	87%	12%	1%	0%	99%	1%
1	6/19/13	186	Peacock Spit	Shipboard/ Beach	59%	21%	21%	0%	79%	21%
2	7/2/13	100	Westport	Dockside	56%	26%	18%	0%	82%	18%
2	7/3/13	100	Westport	Dockside	71%	15%	14%	0%	86%	14%
3	7/9/13	100	Westport	Dockside	54%	18%	28%	0%	72%	28%
3	7/10/13	100	Westport	Dockside	60%	15%	25%	0%	75%	25%
3	7/12/13	173	Ocean Shores	Shipboard/ Beach	39%	6%	56%	0%	44%	56%
3	7/17/13	100	Westport	Dockside	47%	27%	26%	0%	74%	26%
3	7/18/13	200	Peacock Spit	Shipboard/ Beach	40%	16%	44%	0%	56%	44%
3	7/19/13	100	Westport	Dockside	80%	14%	6%	0%	94%	6%
4	7/23/13	205	Copalis	Shipboard/ Beach	56%	11%	34%	0%	66%	34%
4	7/30/13	779	North Cove	Shipboard/ Beach	51%	12%	38%	0%	62%	38%
4	8/1/13	100	Westport	Dockside	48%	39%	13%	0%	87%	13%
5	8/6/13	100	Westport	Dockside	41%	46%	13%	0%	87%	13%
5	8/7/13	435	Peacock Spit	Beach	40%	9%	51%	0%	49%	51%
5	8/7/13	100	Westport	Dockside	54%	27%	19%	0%	81%	19%
5	8/7/13	98	Westport	Dockside	48%	33%	19%	0%	81%	19%
5	8/14/13	452	North Cove	Shipboard/ Beach	63%	12%	26%	0%	74%	26%
6	8/19/13	99	Westport	Dockside	56%	37%	7%	0%	93%	7%
6	8/19/13	99	Westport	Dockside	48%	36%	16%	0%	84%	16%
6	8/21/13	100	Westport	Dockside	71%	27%	2%	0%	98%	2%
6	8/22/13	426	Willapa	Shipboard/ Beach	55%	18%	27%	0%	73%	27%
6	8/28/13	509	Peacock Spit and Columbia River North Jetty	Shipboard/ Beach	13%	5%	82%	0%	18%	82%