NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013

Commercial Dungeness crab season opens Dec. 16

NEWPORT, Ore. – Fresh Dungeness crab is back on the menu for holiday feasts after fishery managers determined the fishery was ready to open Dec. 16 on the Oregon coast.

The commercial Dungeness crab season on the Oregon coast is scheduled to open Dec. 1 of each year, but was delayed this year because crab on some parts of the coast did not measure up during pre-season testing. The testing measures the percentage of meat in the crab, by weight, and is used to ensure a high-quality product for consumers. Delaying the season allowed the crab to fill with meat.

Coast-wide crab quality testing showed all areas now meet minimum test criteria. Fishery managers from Oregon, Washington and California met today and mutually decided to open commercial crabbing from the Oregon/California border, to Klipsan Beach, Wash., on Dec. 16.

Commercial crabbers are allowed to set their gear three days before the season opens, so ocean watchers will see the lights of crab boats off most of the coast as early as Dec. 13.

Recreational harvest of Dungeness crab in the ocean off Oregon opened as scheduled on Dec. 1. The recreational harvest of Dungeness crab in Oregon's bays and estuaries is open year round.

About the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: ODFW's mission is to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The department's policies are set by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

ODFW is headquartered in Salem and works through a regional management structure that allows for fish and wildlife management at the local level.

ODFW's Marine Resources Program manages Oregon's commercial and sport saltwater fisheries and has stewardship over our state's marine environment.

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