



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

January 26, 2016

The Coastal Dungeness Crab fishery will open to state fishers in the area between Destruction Island and the U.S./Canada border at 9:00 a.m. February 1, 2016.

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 15 prior to opening the state fishery. The agreement includes a provision that allows WDFW to open the state's fishery on February 1 regardless of whether or not 20 fishable days have been achieved.

Weather data and recent ocean forecasts have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers and through January 31 and we project there will be a total of 17 fishable days. We agree that the 20 fishable day criteria will not be met before February 1, as a result;

The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border will occur at 9:00 a.m. February 1, 2016.

- A **73-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 a.m. January 29, 2016.
- Two Special Management Areas (SMAs) will be in place between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 29, 2016.

Quileute SMA:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 29, 2016. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 1, 2016. There will be a 100-pot limit in the Quileute SMA from May 1, 2016, through May 31, 2016. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

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.

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 28, 2016 and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 28, 2016. 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 48⁰02.15' N. to 48⁰19.50' N, east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner: 48⁰19.50' N. Lat. - 124⁰50.45' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 48⁰02.15' N. Lat. - 124⁰50.45' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: 48⁰02.15' N. Lat. - 124⁰41.00' W. Long.

Other Requirements:

- 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.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through February 10, 2016.

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