



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

**Season Opening Delayed In Washington, Oregon and
California (North of Point Arena)**

On Wednesday November 16, 2017 the Coastal Dungeness Crab Tri-State policy representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) agreed to delay the opening of the 2017-18 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Point Area, California north to the US/Canada border until at least December 16, 2016. This decision was based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW, ODFW and CDFW which shows that all test areas do not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria.

The Tri-State Dungeness Crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that after the first round of testing, if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 25% south of Cascade Head) a delay is required and additional testing is required before a season opening date can be confirmed.

Domoic acid from crab collected in each Washington test area are below the action of 30 ppm for crab viscera. The most recent Washington Dungeness crab domoic acid readings can be found at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters_notices.html under "General Information."

In addition, in Oregon crab collected from some areas have domoic acid readings above the action level. As a result, recreational crab harvesting is CLOSED from Cape Foulweather to Tahkenitch Creek, and from the north jetty of Coos Bay, including the Coos Bay estuary, to the California Border. More details can be found at : <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/FoodSafety/Shellfish/Pages/ShellfishClosures.aspx>

A second round of both meat recovery and domoic acid testing is scheduled to be conducted after Thanksgiving. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests.

Coast-wide test meat recovery results to date are found in the attached table.

2017 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA

* Date is the date the pots were pulled

Test Area	Optional Early Round		Round 1	
	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %
Washington				
Northern	no test	no test		No test, too few crab **
Westport	10/26/17	20.2%	11/5/17	20.9%
Long Beach	10/24/17	19.9%	11/7/17	20.2%
Oregon				
Astoria (50-A)	no test	no test	11/11/17	18.2%
Garibaldi (50-B)	no test	no test	11/11/17	21.4%
Newport North (50-C and 50-D)	no test	no test	11/6/17	22.2
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	no test	no test	11/6/17	23.4
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	no test	no test	11/6/17	24.1
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	no test	no test	11/6/17	23.6
Port Orford (50-K)	no test	no test	11/7/17	20.7
Brookings (50-L)	no test	no test	11/7/17	18.2
California				
Crescent City*	no test	no test	11/6/17	16.7%
Trinidad	no test	no test	11/6/17	14.6%
Eureka*	no test	no test	11/6/17	16.1%
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)				
Bodega Bay*	10/31/17	25.2%		
San Francisco	no test	no test		

*Only one test station in each area (18 pots)

** Below 300lb minimum poundage