



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations effective July 1, 2018:

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 catch accounting periods below.

Any crab taken prior to July 1, 2018, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2018, become part of the July 1 through July 7, 2018 accounting period catch.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- July 1 – July 7, 2018
- July 8 – July 14, 2018
- July 15 – July 21, 2018
- July 22 – July 28, 2018
- July 29 – August 4, 2018
- August 5 – August 11, 2018
- August 12 – August 18, 2018
- August 19 – August 25, 2018
- August 26– September 1, 2018
- September 2 – September 8, 2018
- September 9 – September 15, 2018

JUSTIFICATION:

These changes are part of the Summer Fishery Management Plan that provides specific steps necessary to protect the Dungeness crab resource from handling mortality. The Plan also addresses the variability in the presence of soft shelled crab from year to year through in-season monitoring. WDFW will continue to collect shell condition data through the remainder of the season both in dockside and at-sea sampling and will take additional measures, following the Plan's testing protocols, if large numbers of soft shelled crab are present. More information can be found at:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/notices/2016/summer_crab_fishery_management_measures_updated_2015.pdf

This is the third season with a permanent implementation of the 2,500 pot limit on July 1 (to avoid confusion this will always start on the first Sunday in July). For more information feel free to reference the June 24, 2015 letter which is on our web site at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters/letter_jun24_2015.pdf