

## WDFW COASTAL COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB PROGRAM

### WAC 220-340-430 Commercial crab fishery – Buoy tag, pot tag, and buoy requirements.

#### **(3) Commercial crab fishery buoy tag requirements.**

- (a) The department issues crab pot buoy tags to the owner of each commercial crab fishery license upon payment of an annual buoy tag fee per crab pot buoy tag. Prior to setting gear, each Puget Sound crab license holder must purchase 100 tags, and each coastal crab fisher must purchase 300 or 500 tags, depending on the crab pot limit assigned to the license.
- (b) In coastal waters each crab pot must have the department-issued buoy tag securely attached to the first buoy on the crab pot buoy line (the buoy closest to the crab pot), and the buoy tag must be attached to the end of the first buoy, at the end away from the crab pot buoy line.

#### **(e) Replacement crab buoy tags.**

(ii) Coastal: The department only issues replacement buoy tags for the coastal crab fishery beginning March 1 and after a signed affidavit is received by an authorized department employee. The affidavit must be signed by the primary or alternate operator fishing the commercial crab gear and state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss.

(A) Coastal crab license holders with a 300-pot limit may replace lost tags according to the following schedule:

(I) Period 1, up to 10 tags.

(II) Period 2, 5 additional tags with no more than 15 tags total issued through the end of Period 2.

(B) Coastal crab license holders with a 500-pot limit may replace lost tags according to the following schedule:

(I) Period 1, up to 15 tags.

(II) Period 2, 10 additional tags with no more than 25 tags total issued through the end of Period 2.

(C) Replacement tag periods are defined as follows:

(I) Period 1: March 1 through April 30.

(II) Period 2: May 1 through June 30. No replacement tags will be issued for the current season after July 1.

#### **COASTAL BUOY TAG REPLACEMENT:**

<b>Maximum Replacement Tags Allowed</b>		
<b>Pot Limit</b>	<b>March 1-April 30</b>	<b>May 1- June 30</b>
300	10	15
500	15	25