



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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June 4, 2019

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW is implementing the following changes to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations:

REDUCED POT LIMITS:

With the intent of reducing the number of lines in the water to limit the risk of whale entanglements, the following pots limits will be in effect at 12:01 A.M. **July 1, 2019** through the end of the season:

- Fishers with a *permanently* assigned 500-pot limit will be restricted to a **total of 330 pots**.
- Fishers with a *permanently* assigned 300-pot limit will be limited to a **total of 200 pots**.

SUMMER FISHERY MANAGEMENT:

With the intent of protecting crab in the soft-shelled condition, the provisions of the summer fishery management plan will be in effect at 12:01 A.M. July 7, 2019 through the end of the season:

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 7, 2019, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. July 6, 2019, become part of the July 7 through July 13, 2019 accounting period catch.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

July 7 – July 13, 2019	August 11 – August 17, 2019
July 14 – July 20, 2019	August 18 – August 24, 2019
July 21 – July 27, 2019	August 25– August 31, 2019
July 28 – August 3, 2019	September 1 – September 7, 2019
August 4 – August 10, 2019	September 8 – September 15, 2019

MORE INFORMATION:

The weekly trip limits 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 in 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/sites/default/files/2019-03/summer_crab_fishery_management_measures_updated_2015.pdf

This is the fourth 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:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters/letter_jun24_2015.pdf