



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Region Six • 48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 249-4628 • FAX (360) 664-0689

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

April 28, 2020

The purpose of this notice is to remind you of some important rule changes in the WA Coastal Commercial Crab Fishery.

SUMMER POT LIMIT

A new permanent rule change ([WAC 220-340-480 sec.5](#)) goes into effect this season. 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 as follows:

Beginning May 1 through September 15, it is unlawful for a person to deploy or fish more than the specified reduced pot limit assigned to each license. Each pot deployed during the summer management period must possess a summer buoy tag.

- (a) Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 500 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 330 pots.
- (b) Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 200 pots.
- (c) It is unlawful to deploy gear that includes tags other than the summer buoy tag.

NOTE: Planned start of the extension of our Permitted Gear Recovery Program is delayed by the State rule making process to late July (this season only). More details will be announced later.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA CHANGE:

Effective 8:00 a.m. May 1, 2020 the **Quileute SMA** is open to Dungeness crab fishing. This area 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. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°49.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°40.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°24.43' W. Lon.

Also, effective May 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. there is a single 100-pot limit in this entire area – until further notice.

Fishers who have not already done so, must pre-register with WDFW **twenty-four hours** prior to deploying gear in either area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206

PROHIBITION ON UNATTENDED CRAB GEAR

We want to remind you that the following permanent rule has been in effect for several seasons. WDFW will be working to track compliance with this rule. [WAC 220-340-480 \(1e\)](#)

Beginning May 1, through September 15, it is unlawful to leave Dungeness crab pots deployed in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Washington for more than 21 consecutive days without making a Dungeness crab landing.