



WDFW is seeking input on management of the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery. To ensure we get feedback from all license owners, a survey has been sent out for each license number. If you are affiliated with multiple license numbers, you can complete one survey, but please list each license number you are associated with.

General Questions about Participation in the Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery

In order to collect information from a diverse group of participants, we are asking for feedback from both license owners and active participants (e.g., current vessel operators). Please answer the following questions to provide us with a clear understanding of how you are engaged in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery.

1. Do you own a coastal commercial Dungeness crab license? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please complete the following:

License Number	Current Vessel Operator (Yes/No)	Number of Crab Season(s) (e.g., 1, 2,...10)	
		Owned	Operated

If no, but you are a vessel operator in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please complete the following based on the 2019-2020 season:

License Number	Vessel Operator (Primary/Alternate)	Number of Crab Season(s) (e.g., 1, 2,...10) you have participated in

2. For each of these recent years, please indicate with an X where your vessel started the crab season.

Season	North of Klipsan	South of Klipsan
2019-2020		
2018-2019		
2017-2018		
2016-2017		
2015-2016		
2014-2015		
2013-2014		



3. Where do you primarily fish?

North of Point Chehalis (including Grays Harbor) _____ South of Point Chehalis _____

License Ownership

4. To maintain the integrity of the current fleet and prevent license consolidation, do you support a limit on the number of licenses one individual or company could own going forward? For example, this would not change current license ownership but considers a cap on future ownership.

Yes _____ No _____

Pot Limits

In 2018, we asked you about various options for reduced pot limits.

In conversations with the Crab Advisory Board, we believe that the fleet’s opinions on this topic may have changed. So, we are asking some of the same questions again:

First, in regards to the use of temporary pot limit reductions at the start of the season: Temporary pot limit reductions can be used in a number of different ways; for example, to *potentially* shorten the agreed-to tribal head-start time or to ensure that the state season is not delayed past January 15 for the opening north of Klipsan Beach. In addition, temporary pot limits can be implemented such that the reduction is in place for a set period or gradually increased over time. In theory, a larger pot limit reduction would reduce the delay for the state season opening by more days than a smaller pot limit reduction.

For illustration, different temporary pot limit reductions are shown in the table below.

Reduction in pot limit	Permanent pot limit of 300	Permanent pot limit of 500
20%	240	400
30%	210	350
40%	180	300

Temporary Pot Limits in the Area North of Klipsan Beach

5. In general, do you support the use of temporary reduced pot limits if the state fishery could open earlier? Yes _____ No _____

6. Would you support a temporary 20% pot limit reduction if it potentially shortens the head start by one week? Yes _____ No _____

7. Would you support a temporary 40% pot limit if it potentially shortens the head start by more than two weeks? Yes _____ No _____

8. In rare circumstances, when crab is in good condition (meat recovery and no domoic acid) in Washington but, the majority of the west coast, including Oregon and California, remain closed,



would you support opening the area between Point Chehalis and Klipsan Beach only? When answering this question please consider that any opening in this area would not only be subject to Tri-State Fair Start Provisions, but also significantly reduced pots limits and other fair start rules when the area north of Point Chehalis opens.

Yes _____ No _____

- In some years, if circumstances warranted it (meat recovery is sufficient and no domoic acid) would you support opening the area south of Point Chehalis in line with the Tri-State opening criteria? When answering this question, please consider that opening this area would not only be subject to Tri-State Fair Start Provisions, but it would also necessitate significantly reduced pot limits and other fair start rules when the area north of Point Chehalis opens.

Yes _____ No _____

Temporary Pot Limits in the Area South of Klipsan Beach

Temporary pot limit reductions are already used as a tool to reduce crowding when the season opens in the area south of Klipsan Beach before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens. To reduce the crowding of gear in this area at the beginning of the season, the advisors have asked us to gauge industry interest in expanding the temporary pot reduction, starting with fewer pots when the season opens and gradually increasing the number of pots allowed over a longer time.

A sample timetable for the following two questions is also included below for illustrative purposes.

- Do you support expanding the temporary pot limit in the area south of Klipsan Beach, starting with a lower pot limit than is in place now and gradually increasing the number of pots allowed over a longer period of time? Yes _____ No _____
- Alternatively, do you support a gradual series of pot limit reductions that would start once the area north of Klipsan Beach opens? This would progressively reduce effort from the start of the season until May 1, bringing pot limits into alignment with the new summer pot limits.

Area	Opening Limit	N of Klipsan opener	Step-1 (e.g. March 1)	Step-2 (e.g. April 1)	May 1
Q10, S of Klipsan	330/200	375/225	400/250	500/300	330/200
Q11, S of Klipsan	400/250	500/300	400/250	375/225	330/200
N of Klipsan		500/300	500/300	500/300	330/200

Effort Reduction

WDFW and the Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board have been discussing tools to improve the efficiency and economic benefit to participants in the Washington Dungeness crab fishery. Effort reductions such as pot limits or reducing the number of participants may be effective at reducing fishing



costs and increasing efficiency. These tools could also be considered as measures to reduce the risk of whale entanglements.

12. To reduce effort in the fishery in general, do you support a permanent west coast-wide (WA, OR and CA) pot limit? Yes_____ No_____

a. Do you support a temporary west coast-wide (WA, OR, and CA) pot limit from May 1 through the end of the season?
Yes_____ No_____

13. Do you support potentially reducing the permanent pot limits assigned to Washington licenses from 500 and 300 to something lower? Yes_____ No_____

If yes, would you support:

A 10% reduction? Yes_____ No_____

A 20% reduction? Yes_____ No_____

A 50% reduction? Yes_____ No_____

14. Do you support a buyback program?
Yes_____ No_____

a. Would you support a buyback program that requires industry funding or partial industry funding? Yes_____ No_____

15. To address gear crowding and fishery overcapitalization, do you support pot stacking (where one license holder could buy a second license – but only use a portion of the pots assigned to the second license)? Yes_____ No_____

Other/Miscellaneous

16. In 2010, WDFW worked with the coastal Dungeness crab industry to revise RCW 77.70.350 to allow vessel designation changes once per year (September 15 to September 15). Do you support a legislative change that would extend the period for vessel designations to once every two years (September 15 to September 15)? Any changes would maintain the current exemption for vessels that are lost or in disrepair.

Yes_____ No_____

WDFW is interested in learning more about whale entanglement risk and understanding how the Washington coastal crab fleet currently uses different types of line may be helpful in the future.

17. What type(s) of line do you fish with? Floating_____ Sinking_____ Neutral buoyancy_____

Some fishers rig their gear with a combination of line types. If you do this, please describe or draw/label the diagram on the next page to show where each line type is used in your pot/line/buoy setup.

