



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

April 29, 2021

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Beginning at 8:01 am on May 1, 2021, permitted gear recovery will be allowed in all coastal waters between the Washington/Oregon border (46° 15.00) and the US / Canada Border, including the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. Gear recovery will not be allowed in any SMA closed to state licensed fishermen.

This notice is to remind coastal Dungeness crab fishery participants that summer pot limits and derelict gear recovery will begin May 1st. If you have not already done so, **please remove your regular season tag and leave only the summer tag attached to your buoy setup.** Please note the additional summer tag you may encounter during gear recovery.

Summer Tags: Not recoverable during the in-season gear recovery May 1-Sept 15, 2021.



Recoverable tags: **Can be recovered after May 1st with state issued permit.**



A PERMIT IS REQUIRED to participate in this program.

- TO REQUEST A PERMIT contact:** Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596
robert.morgan@dfw.wa.gov

Permit holders will be exempt from lost and found property laws allowing them to keep any crab gear they recover or to make arrangements to return the gear to the original owner. ***This permit does not allow the recovery of crab gear owned by tribal fishers.***

In regard to final deposition of recovered gear, remember that it is always an option for those participating in the permitted gear recovery program to give the owner of any gear they recover the right of first refusal.

To allow for data collection and monitoring of the program, gear recovery permits will require:

- That the permit is on board the participating vessel anytime it is engaged in recovery operations or has recovered gear onboard.
- Notification to Department staff (**by calling Sergeant Brian Alexander (Westport) at 360-580-6200 or Sergeant Todd Dielman (Ilwaco/Chinook) at 360-581-3423**) 2-hours prior to returning to the dock if any gear was recovered.
- Recording all recovered gear in a special logbook specific to derelict gear recovery (this logbook will be provided with your permit.)
- Registration, inspection and marking of all recovered gear prior to removing it from the participating vessel.

In order to locate and recover as much abandoned crab gear as possible the Department has set up an abandoned gear reporting hotline for coastal areas. Any information on the specific location of crab pots that are not actively fishing will aid to the success of the permitted gear recovery project.

To report lost or abandoned crab gear call 360-480-8596 and leave as much information as possible including, your name, phone number, general location, latitude and longitude and approximate amount of lost gear. Information on derelict crab gear can also be provided electronically by using the WDFW online reporting form at the following link: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/derelict/derelict_gear.html