



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

October 29, 2020

Dear Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab License Owner and/or Vessel Operator:

In 2018, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff sent you a survey requesting input in response to ideas from industry on potential tools to use to structure the state season opening in the future. For example, using lower pot limits to potentially shorten the delay of the state season opening in the area north of Klipsan Beach. We also heard that there has been interest in revising the period where license owners can designate a vessel from, once every calendar year to, once every two calendar years (counted from September 15 through September 15).

The coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board has since indicated that it may be time to re-visit these questions and ask for your input on new ideas as well, ideas that may help improve the economics of the fishery and/or reduce the risk of whale entanglements. We have developed this industry survey with their input, and we hope this survey will allow us to gather widespread opinions from you all before WDFW staff consider proposing any specific changes to the fishery moving forward. **Survey results will not affect the structure of the 2020-2021 season.**

We are asking for responses from both license owners and active participants, such as vessel operators, that may not currently own a license. To ensure we get feedback from all license owners, a survey has been sent out for each license number. Each participant will only fill out the survey once- either for the license(s) you own or the license you use as the operator. If you are affiliated with multiple license numbers, simply list each license number you are associated with in the space provided. Each individual response will be considered confidential, and the results of the survey will only be presented in summary form.

Please take the time to **respond to the attached survey by December 31, 2020.** You can return your responses by sending them in the enclosed envelope to: WDFW, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563 Attn: Crab Manager. If you wish to submit your responses electronically instead, you may do at the following link/url: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PSHXVF>. Your input will help WDFW shape future changes for the Dungeness crab fishery.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Heather Hall

Heather Hall
Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Coordinator

cc: Dan Ayres
Victoria Knorr