



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Contact: Dan Ayres 360-249-4628 (ext. 209)

March 1, 2021

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Evisceration Required for Catch Area 60B (inside Grays Harbor)

Due to elevated levels of domoic acid in crab samples taken this week from inside Grays Harbor WDOH has issued a formal recommendation that WDFW require evisceration of all crab landed from South of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) **and inside Grays Harbor.**

- Washington license holders and vessels designated on those licenses choosing to land crab **only for an EVISCERATION market including crab caught inside Grays Harbor** and must have a *vessel hold inspection certificate number that indicates EVS*.
 - Any vessel with a *North* hold inspection who wants to set gear inside Grays Harbor **MUST RECEIVE A NEW HOLD EVS INSPECTION**. Contact WDFW Enforcement Sergeant Alexander at 360-580-6200.
 - Crab landed under an EVISCERATION vessel hold inspection certificate must be eviscerated and CANNOT be sold for whole cooked crab or live crab markets.
 - Vessels fishing with an EVISCERATION vessel hold inspection certificate may set gear in all coastal catch areas.

- Washington license holders and vessels designation on those licenses choosing to land crab into **ANY market, including whole cooked and live crab**, must declare this choice at the time of their hold inspection. *The vessel hold inspection certificate will clearly indicate that choice as NORTH.*
 - Vessels fishing with a NORTH vessel hold inspection certificate may ONLY SET AND FISH GEAR NORTH OF POINT CHEHALIS (46°53.18 N. Lat), **except for inside Grays Harbor**. Any gear currently set in Grays Harbor **must be moved immediately** and catch from those pots must be eviscerated.
 - Crab landed under a NORTH vessel hold inspection certificate **CAN** be sold for live, whole cooked or evisceration markets.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this notice or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.