



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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**WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE**  
**CORRECTION**  
**Season Opening from Point Arena, CA to Klipsan Beach, WA**

Pre-season testing for meat recovery for the stations off Washington, Oregon and California were completed this week and the results show that meat recovery in all areas is at or above the minimum meat recovery standards set in the Tri-State Pre-Season Testing Protocols. The minimum meat recovery needed to open the fishery north of Cascade Head, Oregon is 23 percent, and 24 percent south of Cascade Head (no rounding). The specific meat recovery results are listed at the end of this notice.

Based on these test results, the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee has agreed to open **the commercial Dungeness crab season in the area between Klipsan Beach, Washington (46°28.00) (including Willapa Bay) and Point Arena, California at 9:00 am December 1, 2021, with a 73-hour gear set beginning at 8:00 am on November 28, 2021. Hold inspections will be conducted beginning at noon November 30, 2021.**

Fishers participating in the fishery south of Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay are subject to reduced pot limits. Fishers with permanent pot limits of 500 and 300 will be allowed to use 400 or 250 pots, respectively. Unused buoy tags must be on board vessels until the temporary pot limits are lifted when the area north of Klipsan opens.

As described in the Tri-State protocols, fishers that chose to fish in an area that opens before another area are subject to fair state provisions. "Details of the fair start provisions for the 2021-2022 season opening from the COLUMBIA RIVER TO CANADA BORDER are described below.

**Klipsan Beach to Destruction Island:**

WDFW will provide a detailed description of the state season for this area as soon as possible, including the special management area (SMA) boundaries.

**Destruction Island to U.S.- Canada Border:**

The state commercial fishery from Destruction Island to the U.S.- Canada border will not open before January 15, 2022. We will provide you with follow-up information with the specific regulations including Makah and Quileute SMA boundaries and closure periods for this area as soon as possible.

**FAIR START PROVISIONS:**

Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters between Klipsan Beach, Washington (46°28.00) and Point Arena, California, (including Willapa Bay) before the area north of Klipsan opens are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

## **Fair Start Provisions:**

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will not be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville until 10 days after the area north of Klipsan opens.
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to the U.S. – Canada Border:** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will not be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and US – Canada Border until 35 days after the area north of Klipsan opens.
- **WAC 220-340-400 Definition—Commercial crab fishing:** “Commercial crab fishing” means any taking, fishing, use, or operation of gear to fish for crab for commercial purposes, and includes the possession of crab on the water for commercial purposes, and the landing or initial delivery of crab for commercial purposes.

## **Other Requirements:**

- Each crab pot must be rigged with line that is marked with 12 inches of red in at least two places. At a minimum, 12 inches of line must be marked in red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot. [WAC 220-340-430 \(6ii\)](#)
- All commercial crab license holders are required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling Sgt. Brian Alexander 360-580-6200, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situations will require notification.
  - a. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
  - b. Vessels transiting north of Destruction Island with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.
- A **Washington Gear Transfer Permit** issued by WDFW is required to transport through Washington State waters, crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state. Contact Sgt. Brian Alexander 360-580-6200 for issuance of this permit.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until further notice.
- WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.
- Because of delayed openings due to whales in California south of Point Arena, any vessel that starts in the December 1 opening north of Point Arena will be delayed by California regulations before they can fish in the delayed area. Please contact CDFW for more details.

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 letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.

**2021 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA**

\* Date is the date the pots were pulled

Test Area	Number of pots	Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
		Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
<b>Washington</b>									
Northern		no test	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test		
Westport	54	10/31/21	26.8%	11/18/21	26.3%				
Long Beach	54	10/31/21	22.4%	11/13/21	25.1%				
<b>Oregon</b>									
Astoria (50-A)	18			11/12/21	23.0%^				
Garibaldi (50-B)	18			11/13/21	25.0%				
Newport North (50-C and 50-D)	36			11/13/21	24.9%				
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36			11/13/21	26.6%				
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36			11/12/21	26.3%				
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36			11/11-11/12/21	27.3%~				
Port Orford (50-K)	18			11/11/21	27.3%~				
Brookings (50-L)	18			11/11/21	25.6%~				
<b>California</b>									
Crescent City	36	11/2/21	22.2%	11/15/21	24.9%				
Trinidad	36	11/2/21	21.5%	11/15/21	24.9%				
Eureka	36	11/2/21	22.8%	11/15/21	24.8%				
<b>District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)</b>									
Bodega Bay		no test	no test						
San Francisco		no test	no test						

^48 hour soak

~Crab kept dry in tote(s) on deck when pots were retrieved