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Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 8:20 AM
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Subject: USACE FY23 Grays Harbor Outer Harbor YAQUINA and ESSAYONS Hopper Dredging

Hello WDFW,

It is that time of year again - Grays Harbor Outer Harbor Hopper Dredging.

Both the ESSAYONS and the YAQUINA are tentatively scheduled to arrive and begin dredging in Grays Harbor as early as the first week in April. The ESSAYONS is scheduled for about three weeks of dredging and the YAQUINA will dredge for about two weeks. Dredging will occur in shoaled areas of the Bar, Entrance, Pt. Chehalis, and South reaches. The goal is to dredge approximately 800,000 CY, with 600,000 CY placed in the South Beach beneficial use site (SBDS). The remaining material will be placed in either the Half Moon Bay or the Pt. Chehalis disposal sites.

There are usually a significant number of crab pots in the South Beach Disposal Site (SBDS) and access lane and we need your help to get the word out to the fishers and crabbers to move their pots and gear before they are damaged by the dredging and disposal. Drawings of disposal and dredge areas that they will need to keep clear of during the dredging will be provided at a later date as well as updates on the dredges arrivals.

Please note: All the disposal target areas **AND** access lanes will be used by the hoppers.

Fishers and crabbers are encouraged to position themselves and/or their gear at least 300 feet from any channel and disposal area boundary to provide a buffer zone to allow for the gear drifting into the area used by the hoppers. Gear that drifts into the navigation channel, access channel, and/or target disposal areas may be damaged or destroyed.

I have sent separate notifications to the Quinault Indian Nation, the Port of Grays Harbor, the WA Crab Association, and WA Ecology. Thanks for your attention and assistance.

-Rustin

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