

You are receiving this message because you have requested to be placed on the WDFW email distribution list for information regarding Washington State's commercial Dungeness crab fishery. If you do not wish to receive future messages, please reply by return e-mail with the word "delete" in the subject heading.

## WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

April 24, 2023

**Effective at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2023, an additional reduction to the summer pot limit will be in effect in the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) Usual and Accustomed Fishing Area U&A (see page 2 for coordinates).**

Landings through April 14, 2023, shows catch from the coastal Dungeness crab fishery over 25 million pounds (state and tribal), the highest landings on record. State catch in the area between Point Chehalis and Destruction Island is 53 percent of the total state and tribal catch. WDFW managers are responding to the high abundance in accordance with overarching principles agreed to by State and QIN policy representatives to use inseason management tools to provide harvest sharing opportunity. In addition to the expansion of the QIN Special Management Area (SMA) that was implemented on April 10, 2023, fishers that fish in the QIN U&A after April 30, will be required to reduce their pot limit by 40 percent compared to the one third reduction that will be in place in areas outside the QIN U&A. The availability of summer buoy tags significantly improves the enforceability of reduced pot limits. Any vessel that fishes in the QIN U&A must have their excess buoy tags on board and available for enforcement inspection.

**Effective May 1 until further notice, the following pot limits will be in place for vessels fishing in the QIN U&A:**

- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 500 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 300 pots.
- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 185 pots.

As a reminder a reduced pot limit will be in effect for all state fishers in the area between the OR-WA border and the US Canada border. The May 1 pot limit reduces the number of crab lines in the water and the lowers the risk of entanglements when whales are more likely to be present off the Washington Coast. To participate in the crab fishery after May 1, fishers are required to mark their gear with summer buoy tags. Fishers with a permanent 500 pot limit will be limited to 330 pots and fishers with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be limited to 200 pots ([see March 22, 2023 Industry Notice](#)). **Please remember to remove your regular season tag by May 1st and leave only the summer tag attached to your buoy setup.**

See the next page for additional information.

### **Quinault:**

The **Quinault U&A** is defined by the following points with the Western boundary mirroring the coastline no farther than thirty nautical miles from the mainland Pacific coast shoreline at any line of latitude:

- |                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) Northeast Corner: | 47°40.10' N. Lat. 124°23.86' W. Lon. |
| (b) Northwest Corner: | 47°40.10' N. Lat. 125°08.50' W. Lon. |
| (c) Southwest Corner: | 47°53.30' N. Lat. 124°53.88' W. Lon. |

(d) Southeast Corner: 47°53.30' N. Lat. 124°07.61' W. Lon.

Effective at 8:00 a.m., April 10, 2023, until further notice, the **Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA)** is closed to fishing for Dungeness crab. The SSMA is defined by the following points:

- (a) Northeast Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°20.70' W. Lon.
- (b) Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°36.00' W. Lon.
- (c) Southwest Corner: 47°06.00' N. Lat. 124°27.10' W. Lon.
- (d) Southeast Corner: 47°06.00' N. Lat. 124°11.00' W. Lon.

**Quileute SMA:**

We also want to remind you of the details of the Quileute Special Management Area. There have been no changes in this area.

The Quileute SMA was closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. February 3, 2023. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 1, 2023. There will be a 100-pot limit in the Quileute SMA from May 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°40.40' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°49.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°24.43 W. Lon.

For more information about this notice, contact Heather Hall at [Heather.Hall@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Heather.Hall@dfw.wa.gov)