

December 18, 2023

## WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

### Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – December 2023

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed the third round of testing for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery within the Long Beach Test Area. Testing was conducted to continue to monitor crab condition after meat recovery failed to reach the 23% threshold during the second round of testing on November 28, 2023.

Testing was conducted in accordance with the Tri-State Coastal Dungeness Crab Revised Pre-Season Testing Protocol, available at the following link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/pre-season-testing-protocols-2020-final.pdf>. Briefly, crab were collected from three stations; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. WDFW staff also collected shell condition data from the same crab collected from all depths. December test results for Washington and the entire coast are included at the end of this notice.

In accordance with the Tri-State protocol, representatives from WDFW, ODFW, and CDFW are scheduled to meet on December 20, 2023 to mutually decide to open the season on either December 31, January 15 or February 1. An industry notice with the decision will be published following the meeting.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provide the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Matt George at [Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-640-1066.

### WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Long Beach	12/17/23	6.6%	25.9%	67.5%	0%	20.7%	No Test

Definition of shell grades:

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B: slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

## COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date are summarized below and can be found at this link:

[https://www.psmfc.org/crab/2023-2024%20files/Tri-StatePreseasonCoastwideResults\\_2023.pdf](https://www.psmfc.org/crab/2023-2024%20files/Tri-StatePreseasonCoastwideResults_2023.pdf)

2023 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA									
* Date is the date the pots were pulled									
		Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
Test Area	Number of pots	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
Washington									
Northern	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Westport	54	10/23/23	19.9%	11/9/23	22.6%	12/10/23	24.8%	NT	NT
Long Beach	54	10/22/23	17.8%	11/8/23	18.4%	11/28/23	19.4%	12/17/23	20.7%
Oregon									
Astoria (50-A)	18	NT	NT	11/9/23	18.9%	11/29/23	21.1%	12/17/23	22.9%
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/9/23	21.2%	11/29/23	23.0%	NT	NT
Newport North (50-C and 50-D)	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	21.6%	11/29/23	23.7%	12/13/23	26.2%
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	24.6%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36	NT	NT	11/14/23	24.0%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36	NT	NT	11/14/23	23.2%	11/29/23	24.8%	NT	NT
Port Orford (50-K)	18	NT	NT	11/8/23	24.1%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/8/23	25.2%	NT	NT	NT	NT
California									
Crescent City	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	26.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Trinidad	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	24.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Eureka	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	23.4%	11/28/23	25.5%	NT	NT
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)									
Bodega Bay	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
San Francisco	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT

**Jamie Fuller**

Region 6 Coastal Shellfish

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