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# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**For Immediate Release**

**Friday, Dec. 9, 2005**

## **Ocean crab season opens Dec. 31**

NEWPORT – Officials today announced the commercial ocean Dungeness crab season from Point Arena, Calif., to the Canadian border will open at 12:01 a.m. Dec. 31. Recreational crab fishing in the ocean will open simultaneously.

On Nov. 22, Washington, Oregon, and California delayed the season from the normal start date of Dec. 1, to Dec. 15 or later, due to low meat recovery.

Crab quality testing was conducted again in all three states the week of Dec. 5. Based on those results, managers from all three states decided to extend the delay another 15 days to allow for continued improvement in the quality of Dungeness crab and to assure an orderly start to the fishery.

Recreational harvest of crab in Oregon's bays and estuaries will remain open under permanent regulations.

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