

October 31, 2006

**WDFW INDUSTRY NOTICE TO:
COASTAL COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERS AND
PROCESSORS**

Information regarding the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery

PRE-SEASON TEST FISHERY RESULTS

Washington completed the first round of pre-season testing fishing for coastal Dungeness crab condition. The Westport portion of the test was completed on October 30, 2006 and the Long Beach portion was completed on October 26, 2006. The season start date is dependant on a meat recovery rate projected to be 23% on December 1. WDFW will conduct another round of test fishing in mid November.

Crabs were collected from three stations at each area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30 and 45 fathoms at each station. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. While aboard the charter vessels, WDFW staff collected shell condition data (listed below) on all crab collected from all depths and stations. The results for both areas are summarized below.

	1A	1B	II	III	Meat Recovery
Westport	16.3%	31.1%	52.6%	0.0%	21.0%
Long Beach	5.4%	25.6%	69.0%	0.0%	22.0%

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice please call Heather Reed (360) 249-4628 ext. 202.