

December 11, 2007



**ODFW INDUSTRY NOTICE TO:  
COMMERCIAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHERS**

**Retrieving Derelict Ocean Commercial Dungeness  
Crab Gear**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has adopted a temporary rule to allow commercial vessels to retrieve commercial Dungeness crab gear from the ocean, including the Columbia River, during December 11, 2007 through June 7, 2008. The permanent crab pot limit regulation prohibits the possession of gear on a vessel unless it has that vessel's buoy tags and markings. In order to facilitate voluntary derelict gear recovery, that regulation has been waived for 180 days. Therefore, under the conditions described below, derelict ocean Dungeness crab gear may be retrieved from the ocean and made available for the owner to pick up:

**Conditions for Derelict Dungeness Crab Gear Retrieval:**

A vessel may retrieve from sea and transport to shore up to six crab pot(s) of another vessel which were lost, forgotten, damaged, abandoned or otherwise derelict; provided that:

- (A) Upon retrieval from sea, the pot(s) must be un-baited; and
- (B) Crab from the retrieved pot(s) shall not be retained; and
- (C) Immediately upon retrieval of pot(s), the retrieving vessel operator shall document in the retrieving vessel's logbook the date and time of pot retrieval, number of retrieved crab pots, location of retrieval, and retrieved pot owner identification information; and
- (D) Any retrieved crab pot(s) must be transported to shore during the same fishing trip that retrieval took place.

**Exceptions for Box and Tanner Crab Fisheries Gear:**

The temporary rule only applies to retrieval of crab gear used in the Dungeness crab fishery. Gear used for the other commercial crab fisheries, such as for box crab or tanner crab, is legally fishing and may only be possessed, operated or retrieved by the permitted vessel. For these fisheries, crab gear is identifiable by buoys marked with "BOX" or "TAN" followed by a number. These numbers are registered with ODFW and OSP.

Fishermen who retrieve crab gear are encouraged to work cooperatively with the Ports on orderly and safe gear disposition. Fishermen are also encouraged to make efforts to contact the owner of the retrieved gear in a timely manner.

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***Please contact the Oregon State Police or the ODFW Marine Resources Program if you have questions. Contacts are: Lt. Jeff Samuels at OSP (503-934-0222) or Mitch Vance or Cyreis Schmitt at ODFW: (541) 867-4741.***