

October 29, 2007

**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 State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) completed the first round of pre-season test fishing for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery.

The Westport portion of the test was completed on October 25, 2007 and the Long Beach portion was completed on October 24, 2007. The season start date is dependent 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.

Sampling location	1A	1B	II	III	Meat Recovery
Westport	30.9%	31.7%	37.4%	0.0%	20.8%
Long Beach	32.5%	27.8%	39.6%	0.1%	23.1%

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice please call Brandon Bryant at 360.249.1229 or email him at bryanblb@dfw.wa.gov.