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INDUSTRY NOTICE

August 28, 2009

Changes to coastal Dungeness crab regulations effective September 1, 2009:

To minimize encounters with soft-shelled Dungeness crab found in offshore waters this time of year, **WDFW is implementing a weekly landing limit of 2,500 pounds.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-52-040, **effective September 1, 2009** until further notice, it is unlawful for non-Indian commercial fishers to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds taken during the following accounting periods. This emergency regulation has been put in place in order to minimize damage to the resource while continuing to allow harvest opportunities and in accordance with the Coastal Dungeness crab Summer Fishery Management Plan.

The following are the coastal crab accounting periods:

September 1 through September 7;
September 8 through September 15, 2009.

Any crab taken prior to September 1, 2009 and not landed before 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2009, become part of the September 1 through September 7 accounting period catch. It is unlawful for any person to fish for crab during any accounting period while having on board any crab taken in a different accounting period.

The 2008/2009 Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery will close at 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2009.