



**REGION 6**

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**Memorandum:**

Date: October 31, 2008  
To: Dungeness Crab Industry  
From: Brandon Bryant  
Subject: Preseason test fishery results

**2008 Preseason Test Fishery Results**

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) completed the October portion of the pre-season test fishing for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery.

The Destruction Island portion of the test was completed on October 19, 2008, Westport portion of the test was completed on October 23, 2008, and the Long Beach portion was completed on October 29, 2008.

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 with the exception of two of the three Westport buoy 3 stations due to dangerous ocean condition. The results for all areas are summarized below.

Sampling location	1A	1B	II	III	Meat Recovery
Destruction Island	63.8%	19.1%	17.1%	0.0%	25.2%
Westport	14.8%	30.6%	54.6%	0.0%	21.4%*
Long Beach	35.7%	26.6%	37.5%	0.2%	23.3%

\*Projected to meet the 23% meat recovery criteria.

The October test fishery results indicate that all areas will be at or above the required 23.0% meat recovery rate necessary to open the commercial fishery. Based on these results, WDFW does not anticipate the need for additional test fishing prior to the opening of the 2008-09 season.

I would like to thank the fishermen and processors for their time and effort making the 2008 test fishery a success.

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](mailto:bryanblb@dfw.wa.gov).