



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

The WDFW Summer Fishery Management Plan is in effect starting July 1, 2011

The Summer Fishery Management Plan calls for the implementation of management measures intended to protect the Dungeness crab resource when significant amounts of soft shelled crab are present during the commercial crab fishery.

- The Plan describes that starting the third week in June and continuing through September 15 WDFW will collect shell condition data at both dockside buying facilities and on board commercial vessels.
- WDFW will consider shell condition data collected in-season to determine if it is necessary to close the area west of four miles to protect softshell crab.

If shipboard data indicates that less than 50% of the crab sampled are hard shelled OR if three dockside crab samples collected during a two week period indicates that less than 75% of the crab sampled are hard shelled a weekly landing limit of 2,500 pounds will be implemented. A complete description of the summer fishery management plan measures can be found at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters_notices.html under "general information".

- Recent sampling results (listed below) have not met these criteria.
- **At the current time NO additional management measures will be imposed.**

Sample Period	Date	Type	A	B	II	III	% Hard	% Soft
1	6/13/11	Dockside	74%	23%	3%	0%	97%	3%
1	6/16/11	Dockside	89%	9%	2%	0%	98%	2%
1	6/17/11	Dockside	85%	9%	6%	0%	94%	6%
1	6/21/11	Shipboard	67%	11%	23%	0%	77%	23%
1	6/22/11	Shipboard	78%	3%	18%	0%	82%	18%
1	6/22/11	Shipboard	79%	8%	13%	0%	87%	13%
1	6/23/11	Dockside	88%	7%	5%	0%	95%	5%
1	6/23/11	Dockside	93%	4%	3%	0%	97%	3%

A management approach that relies on at sea shell condition data to implement management measures would not be possible without the cooperation of fishers willing to allow us to ride-along and sample crab during their fishing trips. Without this cooperation WDFW could be forced to implement area closures, trip limits or early closures on pre-determined dates regardless of the shell condition of the crab.