



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations effective September 11, 2011:

It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds taken from September 11 through September 15, 2011. Any crab taken prior to September 11, 2011, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. September 10, 2011, become part of the September 11 through September 15, 2011 accounting period catch.

JUSTIFICATION:

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.

Two recent shipboard trips during the most recent sampling periods showed that more than 50% of the crabs sampled were soft shelled and, according to the terms of the summer management plan, this amount of soft shelled crab calls for the implementation of a 2,500 pound weekly landing limit.

Although weekly landings for most vessels this summer have been relatively small and the impacts of this change may not affect most who are fishing and bringing in their gear for the remainder of the season the Department is committed to following the terms of the summer management plan and believes this measure is in the best interest of the coastal Dungeness crab resource and industry.

BUOY TAGS:

Also, please note that WDFW has placed clearly labeled bins in both Westport and Ilwaco to collect and recycle your used buoy tags.

These bins are located:

- **In Ilwaco, at the head of the commercial floats.**
- **In Westport, at the Port of Grays Harbor Office.**

We appreciate the cooperation of the Port of Ilwaco, the Port of Grays Harbor and LeMay Enterprises as we work together to help keep the environment healthy.