



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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December 2, 2011

Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – Third Round

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

All stations were completed on December 1, 2011

The standard WDFW coastal Dungeness crab testing fishing protocol was followed. Crabs were collected from three stations at each area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms at each station. Pots at all locations were soaked for 48 hours. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample.

Test Area	Meat Recovery		
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Long Beach	21.4%	20.5%	22.7%
Westport	17.8%	19.8%	23.6%
Northern	No test	No test	29.4%

While aboard the charter vessels, WDFW staff collected shell condition data from crab collected from all depths and stations. The shell condition data will be reported next week (after it has been summarized).

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provided the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

WDFW will be working through the Tri-State process with ODFW and CDFG to determine the final details of the fishery opening. More information will be available next week.

As previously announced, WDFW has scheduled a meeting of Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisors to be held on Thursday December 8, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Grays Harbor County Administration Building, Commissioner's conference room, 100 West Broadway in Montesano (across Main Street from the entrance to City Hall). This meeting is open to all interested members of the Washington coastal Dungeness crab industry.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice please call Dan Ayres at 360.249.4628 (ext. 209) or by email Daniel.Ayres@dfw.w.gov