

December 5, 2012

## Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Update

The purpose of this message is to update you on the current status of coast-wide test fishing that needs to be completed in order to determine the opening date of the Coastal Dungeness Crab fishery in the area between Point Arena, California and Klipsan Beach, WA (46°28.00).

As of today, test fishing in southern Washington and northern California has not been completed due to weather. The recent break in the weather has allowed both Washington and California to set test fishing pots however, we don't expect to have test final test results for all areas until Monday, December 10, 2012.

All of the test stations in Oregon have been completed and they have each either met the minimum meat recovery percentage or are projected to by 12/15.

Once the tests for all areas have been completed, policy leaders from Washington, Oregon and California will review the data and make a decision on whether or not the crab season will open on December 15<sup>th</sup> or if season opening delays in all or a portion of the coast are needed to ensure the crab will meet the minimum meat recovery requirements described in the Tri-State Agreement.

We will notify Washington coastal crab industry members regarding the season opening south of Klipsan Beach as soon as the decision is made on Monday December 10, 2012. Notification will be sent by email, US Mail and FAX to coastal buyers. In addition, the information will appear on our web site:

([http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters\\_notices.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters_notices.html)) and voice message on our 24-hour hotline at 360-249-4628 (ext.279).

If you have any questions, feel free to respond by return email or call Dan Ayres at 360-249-4628 (ext. 209).

### **Dan L. Ayres | Coastal Shellfish Lead Biologist**

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