



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

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December 10, 2012

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE
ADDITIONAL SEASON OPENING DELAY

A decision has been made by the Directors of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to delay the opening of the 2012-2013 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from the Oregon/California border to Klipsan Beach, Washington until December 31, 2012. The Director of the California Department of Fish and Game will make a final decision on the opening in California north of Point Arena by the end of this week however; the opening in this area is also likely to be delayed until December 31.

The decision to delay the opening is based on the crab condition tests conducted by agency staff in all three states which indicates that crab meat recovery rates will not reach the minimum meat recovery criteria in several areas.

OPENING DATES AND FAIR START PROVISIONS:

Klipsan Beach to WA/OR Border including Willapa Bay:

The coastal Dungeness crab fishery will open to state fishers from Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to the WA/OR border (46°15.00), including Willapa Bay (*note the western boundary description), on **December 31, 2012**. A 64-hour gear pre-set period starting at 8:00 AM, December 28, 2012 will precede the opening. Vessel hold inspections will be conducted on December 30, 2012, starting at noon. Fishers can begin fishing in this area at 12:01 a.m. on December 31, 2012.

- Fishers participating in the fishery south of Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay are subject to reduced pot limits. Fishers with permanent pot limits of 500 and 300 will be allowed to use 400 or 250 pots, respectively. Unused buoy tags must be on board vessels until the temporary pot limit is lifted.
- Vessels that fish in the area between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay before the ocean area north of Klipsan Beach opens are subject to the fair start provisions described below.
- The boundary between the Willapa Bay and the ocean waters is distinguished by a straight line connecting the following coordinates:

*Cape Shoalwater: 46°44.76 N - 124°05.76 W

Leadbetter Point: 46°38.93 N - 124°04.33 W



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Klipsan Beach to Destruction Island:

The opening date for this area has not been determined. However, we do know that the state season between Klipsan Beach and Destruction Island will not open before January 15, 2013. We will provide you with an additional letter containing the specific regulations for this area as soon as possible.

Destruction Island to U.S.-Canadian Border:

The state commercial fishery from Destruction Island to the U.S. Canadian border will not open before **January 15, 2013**. The opening in this area may be delayed past January 15 as necessary to provide 20 fishable days between December 1, 2012 and January 15, 2013 or to provide an opening consistent with opening for the area between Klipsan Beach and Destruction Island. We will provide you with an additional letter containing the specific regulations for this area as soon as possible.

Fair Start Provisions:

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Vessels that fish between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be not be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville until **10-days** after the area from Klipsan Beach to Oysterville opens.
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to U.S. - Canadian Border:** Vessels that participate in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will not be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and U.S. - Canadian border until **35-days** after the area from Oysterville to Destruction Island opens.

Attached you will find the complete details of the coast-wide test results.



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2012 Pre-Season Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA

Test Area	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Projected
	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %	Meat Recovery % on Dec 15/16
Washington							
Northern	No test	No test	11/7/12	27.7	met criteria	met criteria	met criteria
Westport	10/24/12	18.0		19.7	11/26/12	23.8	met criteria
Long Beach	10/18/12	20.3	11/9/12	19.5	Exp 12/10	21.4	21.7
Oregon							
Astoria	No test	No test	11/6/12	16.9	11/26/12	22.1	26.7
Garibaldi	10/19/12	19.5	11/14/12	22.1	11/27/12	23.7	met criteria
Newport	10/19/12	20.3	11/5/12	23.7	11/27/12	25.7	met criteria
Coos Bay	10/21/12	24.4	11/5/12	25.3	met criteria	met criteria	met criteria
Floras Creek*	10/17/12	21.2	11/5/12	22.6**	11/27/12	26.0	met criteria
Port Orford*	10/17/12	19.3	11/5/12	22.6**	11/27/12	24.8	met criteria
Brookings	10/17/12	17.6	11/5/12	17.8	11/27/12	22.1	25.5
California							
Crescent City	10/22/12	15.5	11/6/12	16.1	12/6/2012	22.1	24.0
Trinidad	10/22/12	16.5	No test	No test	12/6/2012	22.1	23.2
Eureka	10/22/12	15.5	11/6/12	16.7	12/6/2012	22.7	24.6
Ft. Bragg	10/23/12	18.4	No test	No test	No test	No Test	No Test

Note: The meat recovery criteria needed to open the commercial crab fishery according to Tri-State testing protocols is 23% north of Cascade Head (all of WA, Astoria and Garibaldi, OR) and 25% south of Cascade Head (the remaining OR stations and all of CA to Ft. Bragg).

* Only one test station in each area (18 pots)

**Floras creek and Port Orford test areas combined so only one meat recovery % in round 2.

WDFW Shipboard Dungeness Crab Test Fishing Shell Condition Data					
Season	Area	Sample Date	Percent		
			Hard	Soft	Meat Recovery
2012-13	Longbeach	19-Oct	15.6%	84.4%	20.3%
2012-13	Westport	25-Oct	26.3%	73.7%	18.0%
2012-13	Destruction Island	8-Nov	86.1%	13.9%	27.7%
2012-13	Longbeach	9-Nov	33.0%	67.0%	19.7%
2012-13	Longbeach	10-Dec	49.7%	50.3%	21.4%
2012-13	Westport	13-Nov	32.9%	67.1%	19.6%
2012-13	Westport	27-Nov	55.3%	44.7%	23.8%