



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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INDUSTRY NOTICE

January 9, 2015

The Coastal Dungeness Crab fishery will open to state fishers in the area between Destruction Island and the U.S./Canada border at 12:01 a.m. January 15, 2015

The harvest management plan with the Quileute tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15th prior to opening the state fishery. Weather and fishery data have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers and we agree that the 20 fishable day criteria have been met. As a result;

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border will occur at 12:01 a.m. January 15, 2015.**
- A **64-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2015.

Two Special Management Areas (SMAs) will be in place between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2015.

Quileute SMA:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2015. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 1, 2015.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°40.40' W. Long.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°49.00' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°24.43' W. Long.

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2015 and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 14, 2015.

There will be a 200-pot limit in the SMA for the first 30-days following the opening of the SMA to state fishers. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15' N. to 48°19.50' N, east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner: 48°19.50' N. Lat. - 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. - 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. - 124°41.00' W. Long.

Please be reminded that vessels that participated in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 3, 2015 are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

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 allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 a.m. on January 13, 2015.**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to U.S. / Canada Border:** Vessels that participate in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and U.S. / Canada border at **8:00 a.m. on February 7, 2015.**

Other Requirements:

- a. All license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- b. A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through February 7, 2015.
- c. WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.