



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Region Six • 48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 249-4628 • FAX (360) 664-0689

April 1, 2015

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

QUINAULT SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA CHANGES

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of changes to the Quinault Special Management Area (SMA). According to the terms of the 2014-2015 State-Quinault Dungeness Crab Harvest Management Plan (Harvest Management Plan), the Primary SMA will revert to the Secondary SMA at 8:00 am April 3, 2015. This change will open the area from Raft River to Split Rock to state fishers.

In addition, as part of this year's Harvest Management Plan, State and Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) managers and policy makers agreed to meet in March to evaluate early season catch and discuss the need for in-season measures necessary to achieve harvest-sharing goals of both the state and QIN. This year, catch through the end of February showed State - Quinault harvest sharing was 30 percent, 70 percent respectively. Based on early season harvest sharing and considering that crab abundance is low this year, state and QIN policy makers have agreed that additional adjustments are necessary to provide state fishers the opportunity to catch 50 percent of the harvestable crab in our co-managed area.

Effective at 8:00 am on April 10, 2015 the southern boundary of the Quinault SMA will move from Copalis River to Joe Creek. This change will open approximately five additional miles of fishing area to state fishers. Opening this area on April 10 will provide Quinault fishers the opportunity to adjust their gear to the new SMA boundaries and bring in gear according to the reduced pot limit in light of ocean condition forecast for the next several days. See below for complete details including, information on pot limits for state fishers in newly opened areas, and registration requirements that will apply when both of these areas open to state fishers.

A Quinault **Secondary SMA** (SSMA) will be established at 8:00 a.m. on April 3, 2015. The area that remains closed to state fishers includes the area shoreward of a line **approximating** the 27-fathom depth curve between Split Rock (47°24.50) and the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00). The following coordinates legally define the area closed to state fishers (the SSMA):

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°20.00' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°32.40' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°11.20' W. Lon.

There is a 200-pot limit in the area that opens to state fishers between Raft River (47°28.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50) and shoreward of a line **approximating** the 27-fathom depth curve from 8:00 a.m. April 3, 2015, until 8:00 a.m. May 3, 2015. The following coordinates legally define the area in which the pot limit applies:

- Northeast Corner (Raft River): 47°28.00 N. Lat. 124°20.70 W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00 N. Lat. 124°34.00 W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°32.40 W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°20.00 W. Lon.

Fishers must pre-register with WDFW 24 hours prior to deploying gear in this area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Carol Henry at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Carol Henry at Carol.Henry@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Carol Henry at 360-249-1296.

The southern boundary of the Quinault Secondary Special Management Area will be revised at 8:00 A.M., April 10, 2015, to close the area shoreward of a line **approximating** the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Joe Creek (47°12.11) and Split Rock (47°24.50). This area will be closed until further notice. The following coordinates legally define the area closed to state fishers (the revised SSMA):

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°20.00 W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°32.40 W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°12.11 N. Lat. 124°27.33 W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47°12.11 N. Lat. 124°12.28 W. Lon.

There is a 200-pot limit in the area that opens to state fishers between Copalis River (47°08.00) and Joe Creek (47°12.11) shoreward of a line **approximating** the 27-fathom depth curve and from the area from 8:00 a.m. April 10, 2015, until 8:00 a.m. May 10, 2015. The following coordinates legally define the area in which the pot limit applies:

- Northeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47°12.11 N. Lat. 124°12.28 W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°12.11 N. Lat. 124°27.33 W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°25.50 W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°11.20 W. Lon.

Fishers must pre-register with WDFW 24 hours prior to deploying gear in this area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Carol Henry at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to: Carol Henry at Carol.Henry@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Carol Henry at 360-249-1296.

For more information about this notice, contact Dan Ayres at 360-249-4628 (ext. 209) or Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov