



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Contact: Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext.209

INDUSTRY NOTICE

December 10, 2014

UPDATED : Changes to the Replacement Buoy Tag Program for 2014-2015 Season and Beyond

The new rules described below require the vessel operator or alternate operator to sign the replacement tag affidavit. This was not specifically required in the previous rules. For your convenience, we have attached (to this email) the WDFW Buoy Tag Replacement Affidavit that you may fill out and have signed before coming to pick up replacement tags.

As you know, WDFW is in the process of revising regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery. A summary of these changes was mailed to all license owners and alternate operators on November 6, 2014 and is available on the WDFW web page ([Amending Coastal Dungeness Crab Rules](#)). The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is scheduled to take final action on these changes at their meeting December 12-13, 2014, rule changes will be in place 30 days following adoption.

To avoid confusion with implementing changes to the replacement buoy tag program once the season is already underway, WDFW has adopted emergency regulations that are consistent with those proposed in the permanent rule change proposal until the permanent rule is in place in mid-January.

Replacement tags will now be available beginning 15 days after the season opening rather than on opening day. In addition, the overall number of replacement tags issued to each license owner will be reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent of the total amount of buoy tags issued according to each license owner's pot limit (300 or 500). Below are tables that show the periods when replacement tags are available and how many replacement tags are available to each license holder based on their pot limit.

We understand there is interest in further reducing the number of replacement tags available during the year if not eliminating them (except in extreme circumstances) completely in the future. We will be reaching out to you for additional input on this in the coming year.

Pot Limit	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
300	15	10 additional tags, up to 25 total	5 additional tags, up to 30 total
500	25	15 additional tags, up to 40 total	10 additional tags, up to 50 total
Season Opening Date	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Dec. 1, 2014	Dec 16 – Jan 15	Jan 16 – Feb 15	Feb 16 – Sep 15
Jan. 3, 2015	Jan 19 – Feb 19	Feb 20 – March 22	March 23 – Sep 15