



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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October 30, 2014

Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – October 2014

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed the optional October pre-season test for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery.

The stations in the Long Beach Test Area were completed on October 27, with a return trip on October 29 (to retrieve gear that could not be located on the 27th due to heavy currents holding buoys below the surface). All the stations in the Westport Test Area were completed on October 27, 2014.

The standard WDFW coastal Dungeness crab testing fishing protocol was followed. Crabs were collected from three stations at each area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms at each station. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. While aboard the charter vessels, WDFW staff collected shell condition data from the same crab collected from all depths and stations. The results for all stations are summarized below.

Test Area	1A	1B	II	III	Meat Recovery
Westport	39.0%	38.8%	22.2%		26.5%
Long Beach	54.1%	30.2%	15.7%		26.7%

Note that only WDFW exercised the option (per the Tri-State Agreement) to conduct an October test.

The first **required** round of testing (per the Tri-State Agreement) will be completed by mid-November. WDFW expects to also include the Northern Washington test stations at that time. Tests will also be conducted during the same time frame in Oregon and California.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provided the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice feel free to call Dan Ayres at 360.249.4628 (ext. 209) or by email Daniel.Ayres@dfw.w.gov