



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

**IMMEDIATE EXPANSION OF
CLOSURE AREA**

Effective immediately, WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations:

The coastal waters between the Washington/Oregon border (46⁰15.00) and THE QUEETS RIVER (47.31.70), including the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor are CLOSED to the harvest and possession of Dungeness crab.

This action is a result of increasing levels of domoic acid in recent Dungeness crab samples. These levels now exceed the closure criteria established by the Washington Department of Health.

All crab gear must be removed from the area between the Washington Oregon border and the Queets River by 12:01 AM, August 10, 2015. If extenuating circumstances make this impossible for any fisher, you can contact us to request an extension.

THIS CLOSURE INCLUDES BOTH COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING.

The area north of the Queets River remains open to both commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fishing. Vessels that participate in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery in the area north of the Queets River or south of the WA/OR border may possess crab for delivery into Washington ports south of Queets River, provided the crab were taken north of the Queets River (47.31.70) or south of the WA/OR border.

Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas.

- Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of the Washington/Oregon border (46⁰15.00) or south of Queets River (47.31.70) by calling 360-581-3337, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery.