



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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June 27, 2016

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW is implementing the summer management plan for the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery effective July 3, 2016. It includes the following provisions:

It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period (Sunday through Saturday). See the list of catch accounting periods below.

Any crab taken prior to July 3, 2016, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. July 2, 2016, become part of the July 3 through July 9, 2016 accounting period catch.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- July 3 – July 9, 2016
- July 10 – July 16, 2016
- July 17 – July 23, 2016
- July 24 – July 30, 2016
- July 31 – August 6, 2016
- August 7 – August 13, 2016
- August 14 – August 20, 2016
- August 21 – August 27, 2016
- August 28 – September 3, 2016
- September 4 – September 10, 2016
- September 11 – September 15, 2016

JUSTIFICATION:

To avoid confusion, the weekly landing limit will begin on July 3, 2016 to align with the Sunday through Saturday accounting periods. Furthermore, WDFW will continue to collect shell condition data through the remainder of the season and take additional measures, following the status quo testing protocols, if large numbers of soft shelled crab are present.

Recall that last June we sent you a letter in which we detailed permanent changes to the Summer Fishery Management Plan that included the implementation of a weekly landing limit of 2,500 pounds on July 1 each year. That letter details the process used to come to this decision that included extensive industry input. For your reference the June 24, 2015 letter is on our web site at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters_notices.html