

Subject: WA Long Beach Test Fishing Update

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed third round of pre-season testing in the Long Beach test stations only. This test collected both Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery data.

This third test was conducted at the request of members of the Coastal crab industry, to confirm the results of the second round of tests from this same area.

As we reported earlier, the meat recovery result from the second round of testing from the Long Beach test stations (conducted 12/4/17) was 25.5%.

The results from the most recent third round of testing from the same Long Beach test stations (conducted on 12/14/17) show a decrease to 21.8%.

The apparent reason for this decrease in meat recovery was the presence of a higher abundance of just barely legal sized male crab. These smaller male crab were almost all in soft-shell condition.

The next step in the Tri-State season setting protocol (per the Tri-State Agreement) is to hold a Tri-State conference call meeting where fishery managers from all three states will discuss the coast-wide meat recovery results. That meeting will occur sometime next week – after all the Oregon and California results have been reported.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provide 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