



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – November 2017

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed the first official round of pre-season testing for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery.

The stations in the Westport Test Area were completed on November 5, 2017 and the stations in the Long Beach Test Area were also completed on November 7, 2017. The Northern Test Area was conducted on Nov.12, 2017. However, in the Northern test an insufficient number of crab were collected to do a valid meat recovery test.

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	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Westport	11/5/17	5.2%	27.9%	66.9%	0%	20.9%	4,4,<1,NTD,<1,12
Long Beach	11/5/17	7.8%	26.8%	65.5%	0%	20.2%	3,3,4,NTD,9,4
Northern Area	11/12/17	No data					pending

Definition of shell grades;

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B : slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

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