

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

February 27, 2019

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA CHANGE:

The purpose of this notice is to inform you of changes to the Quinault Special Management Area (SMA). According to the terms of the 2018-19 State-Quinault Dungeness Crab Harvest Management Plan, the Primary SMA will revert to the Secondary SMA at 8:00 am March 4, 2019. This change will open the area from Raft River to Split Rock to state fishers. A 200-pot limit will be in place for the first 30-days this area is open.

In addition, as part of our Harvest Management Plan with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN), state and QIN managers and policy makers evaluate catch throughout the season to determine the need for inseason measures necessary to achieve harvest-sharing goals for both the state and QIN. The most recent data summary shows that harvest sharing is at approximately 61 percent Quinault and 39 percent State. As a result, at 8:00 am on March 4, 2019, the southern boundary of the Quinault Primary SMA will move from Copalis River to Joe Creek. This change will open approximately five additional miles of fishing area to state fishers. A 100-pot limit will be in place for the first 30-days this area is open.

State and QIN managers will continue to exchange data and evaluate harvest sharing and will consider the need for additional measures as the season progresses.

Quinault:

A Quinault **secondary SMA** (SSMA) will be established at 8:00 a.m. on March 4, 2019. The area that remains closed to state fishers includes the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Joe Creek (47°12.11) and Split Rock (47°24.50) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°20.00' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°32.40' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°12.11' N. Lat. 124°27.33' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47°12.11' N. Lat. 124°12.28' W. Lon.

There is a 200-pot limit in the area that opens to state fishers between Split Rock (47°24.50) and Raft River (47°28.00) shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve.

There is a 100-pot limit in the area that opens to state fishers between the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Joe Creek (47°12.11) seaward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve. These pot limits will be in place from 8:00 a.m. on March 4, 2019, through 8:00 a.m. April 3, 2019.

Fishers must pre-register with WDFW **twenty-four hours** prior to deploying gear in either area by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206

Makah:

We want to remind you that the Makah SMA, in the area between Destruction Island and the US Canada Border, is open (as of February 11, 2019.)

There is a 200-pot limit in this area until 8:00 A.M. March 13, 2019 (the first 30-days following the opening of this SMA). Fishers must pre-register with WDFW **twenty-four hours** prior to deploying gear in this area. Fishers must pre-register by one of the three following methods:

- Fax transmission to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1229;
- E-mail to Robert Morgan at Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Robert Morgan at 360-249-1206.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48⁰02.15 N' Lat. to 48⁰19.50 N' Lat. east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner: 48°19.50' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°41.00' W. Lon.

Quileute:

The Quileute SMA remains closed to state fishers. The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°40.40' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. 124°49.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°40.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. 124°24.43' W. Lon.

For more information about this notice, contact Dan Ayres at 360-249-4628 (ext. 209) or Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov

Note: You can get this same information sent to your email by signing up for the WDFW Coastal Commercial Crab Email list. You can do so by sending an email to:

Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov