



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening from Cape Arago, Oregon to Klipsan Beach, Washington

CORRECTED VERSION

Pre-season test results for the stations off Long Beach, Washington were completed this morning and showed that meat recovery was 27.9 percent, which is an improvement from the 22.8 percent meat recovery when the crab were last tested in early December. The minimum meat recovery needed to open the fishery north of Cascade Head, Oregon is 23 percent (no rounding).

Based on this recent test, the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee has agreed to open **the commercial Dungeness crab season in the area between Klipsan Beach, Washington and Cape Arago, Oregon at 9:00 am January 4, 2019, with a 73-hour gear set beginning at 8:00 am on January 1, 2019. Hold inspections will be conducted beginning at noon January 3, 2019.**

Fishers participating in the fishery south of Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay are subject to reduced pot limits. Fishers with permanent pot limits of 500 and 300 will be allowed to use 400 or 250 pots, respectively. Unused buoy tags must be on board vessels until January 7th when the temporary pot limit is lifted.

As described in the Tri-State protocols, fishers that chose to fish in an area that opens before another area are subject to fair state provisions. Details of the fair start provisions for the 2018-2019 season opening are described below.

FAIR START PROVISIONS:

Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Cape Arago, Oregon, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 10, 2019 are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

Fair Start Provisions:

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Cape Arago, OR and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on January 20, 2019**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to the U.S. – Destruction Island:** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Cape Arago, OR and Klipsan

Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and Destruction Island at **8:00 am on February 14, 2019.**

- **Cape Arago, Oregon (43° 17' 00" N. Lat.) to Point Arena, California:** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Cape Arago, OR and Klipsan Beach, WA, before the area south of Cape Arago opens will be subject to the 30 day fair start based on the season opening date which is currently pending additional biotoxin testing.
- **WAC 220-340-400 Definition—Commercial crab fishing:** “Commercial crab fishing” means any taking, fishing, use, or operation of gear to fish for crab for commercial purposes, and includes the possession of crab on the water for commercial purposes, and the landing or initial delivery of crab for commercial purposes.

Other Requirements:

- All commercial crab license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- 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 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling Capt. Dan Chadwick at 360-4581-3337, 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. The following situations will require notification.
 - a. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
 - b. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.
- A **Washington Gear Transfer Permit** issued by WDFW is required to transport through Washington State waters, crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state. Contact Captain Dan Chadwick at 360-581-3337 for issuance of this permit.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until February 14, 2019
- WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement
 - a. WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.