



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## WASHINGTON COASTAL CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

### Season Opening Information for the Area North of Destruction Island

Contact: Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext.209  
January 8, 2019

The harvest management plan with the Quileute Tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15 prior to opening the state fishery. Weather data and recent ocean forecasts have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers through January 8 and we agree that the 20 fishable day criteria has been achieved, as a result;

**The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab season between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border will open at 9:00 a.m. January 15, 2019.**

- A **73-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2019.
- Two Special Management Areas (SMAs) will be in place between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2019.

#### **Quileute SMA:**

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2019. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 1, 2019. There will be a 100-pot limit in the Quileute SMA from May 1, 2019, through May 31, 2019. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

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. Long.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°49.00' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°24.43' W. Long.

#### **Makah SMA:**

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2019 and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 11, 2019. There will be a 200-pot limit in the SMA for the first 30-days following the opening of the SMA to state fishers. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15' N. to 48°19.50' N, 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. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. - 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. - 124°41.00' W. Long.

Other Requirements:

- All 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.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through February 14, 2019.

WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 279) 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).