



State of Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

June 24, 2020

Contact: Dan Ayres 360-249-4628 (ext. 209)

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

SUMMER FISHERY MANAGEMENT:

With the intent of protecting crab in the soft-shelled condition, the provisions of the summer fishery management plan will be in effect at 12:01 A.M. July 5, 2020 through the end of the season:

It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period (Sunday through Saturday). See the list of catch accounting periods below.

Any crab taken prior to July 5, 2020, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. July 4, 2020, become part of the July 5 through July 11, 2020 accounting period catch.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

July 5 – July 11, 2020	August 9 – August 15, 2020
July 12 – July 18, 2020	August 16 – August 22, 2020
July 19 – July 25, 2020	August 23 – August 29, 2020
July 26 – August 1, 2020	August 30 – September 5, 2020
August 2 – August 8, 2020	September 6 – September 12, 2020
	September 13 - September 15, 2020

MORE INFORMATION:

The weekly trip limits are part of the Summer Fishery Management Plan that provides specific steps necessary to protect the Dungeness crab resource from handling mortality. The Plan also addresses the variability in the presence of soft-shelled crab from year to year through in-season monitoring.

WDFW will continue to collect shell condition data through the remainder of the season both in dockside and in at-sea sampling and will take additional measures, following the Plan's testing protocols, if large numbers of soft shelled crab are present. More information can be found at:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-03/summer_crab_fishery_management_measures_updated_2015.pdf

This is the fifth season with a permanent implementation of the 2,500-pot limit on July 1 (to avoid confusion this will always start on the first Sunday in July).

For more information feel free to reference the June 24, 2015 letter which is on our web site at:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters/letter_jun24_2015.pdf

COVID-19 Information:

WDFW is firmly committed to protecting the health and safety of the public we serve and our employees. We are closely monitoring the changing situation of COVID-19 and are complying with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Washington State Department of Health guidelines. Below is a list of protocols our staff will follow while sampling commercial catch.

WDFW employees will:

- Contact fish dealers/buyers/fishermen to coordinate sampling operations and modify those as needed
- Comply with facility health and safety guidelines
- Maintain ongoing communication with dealers/buyers/fishermen
- Complete a daily health attestation, including taking their temperature
- Notify staff/fishermen upon arrival and when finished sampling
- Wear required PPE: facemask and gloves
- Maintain mandatory social distancing of 6 ft. on site and remain on deck while on board commercial fishing vessels.
- Drive separate vehicles
- Work with facility staff to set up a sampling station that supports social distancing
- Keep 6 ft. distancing between WDFW staff; assign a single person to a task (one sampler, one data recorder)
- Clean and disinfect all sampling gear, surfaces, and any equipment or the area of the facility where sampling was conducted