WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations effective September 8, 2019:

**It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 1,200 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period.** See the list of catch accounting periods below.

Any crab taken prior to September 8, 2019, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. September 7, 2019, become part of the September 8 – September 15, 2019 accounting period catch.

**Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:**

- September 8 – September 15, 2019

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Summer Fishery Management Plan (Plan) calls for the implementation of management measures intended to protect the Dungeness crab resource when significant amounts of soft-shelled crab are present during the commercial crab fishery.

Specifically, the Plan states: If any single shell condition test conducted during a ride-along trip indicates that less than 50% of the male crabs sampled are hard-shelled (grades 1A and/or 1B OR, if any three shell condition tests conducted during random dockside sampling within a two week period as described in Appendix B indicates that less than 75% of the crab sampled are hard-shelled (grades 1A and 1B), WDFW will impose a 1,200 pound weekly landing limit.

This week’s crab condition data has met the above criteria, triggering a reduced weekly landing limit. This reduced weekly trip limit will remain in place through the end of the season.