



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Continued Season Opening Delay in Washington and Oregon (North of Cape Falcon)

January 15, 2021

The most recent domoic acid results of Dungeness crab collected off Long Beach, Washington on January 9 show continued levels of domoic acid that exceed federal domoic acid action levels for viscera (30 parts per million (ppm)). The latest results are posted at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters-notices#general-info>

As a result of this new information, coastal Dungeness crab Tri-State policy representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) today agreed to further delay the opening of the 2020-21 coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery. The delay remains confined to the area from Cape Falcon, Oregon (45° 46' .00 N. Lat.) north to the US/Canada border.

While we now anticipate the delay of the Washington fishery to continue into February and perhaps as late as February 15, a specific opening date will depend on the results of Washington domoic acid tests of crab in the area south of Klipsan and our continued work to explore a regulatory pathway to allow the Washington fishery to open under an evisceration order. In addition, opening with an evisceration requirement must be accompanied by sufficient regulations to ensure public safety.

WDFW continues to work with WDOH, Washington Department of Agriculture and ODFW to discuss the requirements and enforceability of an opening under a mandatory evisceration requirement should that action be necessary.

WDFW is coordinating closely with the Quinault Indian Nation regarding season opening provisions for the area north of Klipsan Beach, Washington. We will provide more information and details regarding the season opening in that area as soon as possible.