



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Region Six • 48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 249-4628 • FAX (360) 664-0689

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

February 22, 2022

The primary purpose of this notice is to inform you of upcoming changes to the Quinault Special Management Area (SMA).

According to the terms of the State-Quinault Harvest Management Agreement, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) agree to exchange catch data and discuss the need for inseason action if needed to balance State-Quinault harvest sharing.

In addition to exchanging weekly catch data, State and QIN managers also review historical catch to estimate what the end of season harvest sharing might look like. In general, based on past experience, in seasons where crab abundance is higher than average, the state is capable of catching more than 50 percent. In contrast, in seasons with lower crab abundance, state catch at the end of the season can fall below 50 percent. This season, landings are higher than we've seen since the 2012-2013 season after the first 30- days that the state season was open north of Klipsan Beach, indicating an above average abundance of Dungeness crab and potential that the state fishery will exceed 50 percent of the total season catch by the end of the season.

WDFW managers are responding to this information in accordance with overarching principles agreed to by State and QIN policy representatives to use inseason management tools to balance harvest sharing when needed. Effective at 8:00 AM, March 4, 2022, WDFW is revising the coordinates of the Quinault SMA moving the southern boundary approximately 2 miles south, maintaining the northern boundary at Raft River, and extending the western boundary to a line approximating 30 fathoms (see below for details). The revisions to the SMA boundaries result in a similarly sized expansion of the SMA as was implemented in May 2016 when the SMA southern boundary was moved to Hogan's Corner but distributes the impacts more broadly by revising both the southern and western boundaries. WDFW and QIN managers will continue to track catch and harvest sharing and will consider other management measures if needed, including revising the SMA back to the original size if state catch is not anticipated to exceed 50 percent in future projections.

Catch data as reported on State fish tickets forms the foundation for harvest sharing which is required for co-management. This year, significant revisions to fish tickets were made to correct errors in landing area reported on fish tickets. WDFW takes this issue very seriously and reminds buyers who fill out fish tickets and license holders or alternate operators who sign those fish tickets to be aware of your responsibility to accurately report all information on fish tickets, including catch area when first submitted.



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Quinault:

Effective at 8:00 a.m., March 4, 2022, until further notice, the Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) is closed to fishing for Dungeness crab. The SSMA is defined by the following points:

- (a) Northeast Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°20.70' W. Lon.
- (b) Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°36.00' W. Lon.
- (c) Southwest Corner: 47°06.00' N. Lat. 124°27.10' W. Lon.
- (d) Southeast Corner: 47°06.00' N. Lat. 124°11.00' W. Lon.

Quileute SMA:

We also want to remind you of the details of the Quileute Special Management Area. There have been no changes in this area.

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2022. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 1, 2022. There will be a 100-pot limit in the Quileute SMA from May 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022. 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. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°49.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°24.43 W. Lon.

For more information about this notice, contact Dan Ayres at 360-249-4628 (ext. 209) or Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov