



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

December 22, 2022

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Delayed in Washington, Oregon

On December 22, 2022, 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) agreed to delay the opening of the 2022-23 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Oregon/California border north to the US/Canada border through at least January 15, 2023. This decision was based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW, ODFW, and CDFW which shows that test results at multiple sites across the region do not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria.

The Tri-State Dungeness Crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that after the third round of testing, if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 24% south of Cascade Head) a delay is required, and additional testing is conducted before a season opening date can be confirmed. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests.

The area between Point Arena, CA and the Oregon/California border will open on December 31, 2022. Any vessel that begins fishing in the area between Point Arena, CA, and the California/Oregon Border before the area north of the Oregon/California border opens will be delayed 30 days before being allowed to fish in the area between the Oregon/California border and Klipsan Beach, WA.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

The stations in the Long Beach test areas were completed on December 22, 2022. The results for all stations are summarized below. The results were delayed by one day due to weather and no shell condition data was collected due to illness-related issues with several WDFW staff.

Test Area	Date Crab were Landed	Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
Long Beach	12/21/22	19.9%	<i>Not available until 12/23/22</i>

WDFW made the decision not to conduct another test in the Westport stations. This decision was also based on poor weather conditions and the same illness-related issues with several WDFW staff.

On Sunday December 18, 2022, Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) opened their commercial Dungeness crab fishery within their U&A (between Point Chehalis and Destruction Island) after their final meat recovery test results came back at 23.4%. In addition, on December 15, we finalized our 2022-23 State/Tribal crab management agreement with QIN. This agreement has the same provisions as the 2021-22 agreement. We are required to hold a State/QIN discussion to use the first 30 days of QIN catch to determine the total QIN head-start days. After that discussion, we will provide you the opening details for the area north of Klipsan.

COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date are summarized below and can also be found at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters-notices#general-info>

2022 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA									
* Date is the date the pots were pulled									
Test Area	Number of pots	Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
		Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
Washington									
Northern		NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Westport	54	10/18/22	14.7%	11/14/22	19.8%	12/5/22	21.5%	NT	NT
Long Beach	54	10/19/22	14.3%	11/9/22	16.3%	12/5/22	18.6%	12/21/22	19.9%~
Oregon									
Astoria (50-A)	18	NT	NT	11/9/22	19.6%	12/1/22	21.3%~	12/15/22	21.3%
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/10/22	21.7%	12/5/22	24.3%	NT	NT
Newport North (50-C and 50-D)	36	NT	NT	11/9/22	24.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36	NT	NT	11/9/22	26.9%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36	NT	NT	11/10/22	26.1%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36	NT	NT	11/10/22	25.6%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Port Orford (50-K)	18	NT	NT	11/9/22	20.7%	11/29/22	20.7%	12/17/22	22.9%^
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/7/22	18.6%	11/29/22	21.0%	12/17/22	22.6%^
California									
Crescent City		NT	NT	11/10/22	18.7%	12/5/22	21.9%	12/17/22	24.9%
Trinidad		NT	NT	11/10/22	20.4%	12/5/22	23.6%	12/17/22	24.7%
Eureka		NT	NT	11/10/22	19.5%	12/5/22	21.5%	12/17/22	25.8%
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)									
Bodega Bay		no test	no test						
San Francisco		no test	no test						
~ Soak time 48hrs									
^Crab were picked ~64hrs after landing									

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors that work cooperatively with WDFW to successfully complete this important work.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or 360-580-0875 or Dan Ayres at Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov 360-470-3557