



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

December 7, 2022

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Delayed in Washington, Oregon, and California (North of Point Arena)

On December 7, 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 Point Area, California north to the US/Canada border through at least December 30, 2022. 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 second 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. A third round of both meat recovery and domoic acid testing is scheduled to be conducted in two weeks, with completion no later than December 22, 2022. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

The stations in the Long Beach and Westport Test Areas were completed on December 5, 2022. The results for all stations are summarized below.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Westport	12/5/22	10.2%	20.1%	69.7%	0%	21.5%	NTD
Long Beach	12/5/22	6.9%	18.1%	75%	0%	18.6%	NTD

Definition of shell grades:

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B: slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

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		
Westport	54	10/18/22	14.7%	11/14/22	19.8%	12/5/22	21.5%		
Long Beach	54	10/19/22	14.3%	11/9/22	16.3%	12/5/22	18.6%		
Oregon									
Astoria (50-A)	18	NT	NT	11/9/22	19.6%	12/1/22	21.3%~		
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/10/22	21.7%	12/5/22	24.3%		
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%		
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/7/22	18.6%	11/29/22	21.0%		
California									
Crescent City		NT	NT	11/10/22	18.7%	12/5/22	21.9%		
Trinidad		NT	NT	11/10/22	20.4%	12/5/22	23.6%		
Eureka		NT	NT	11/10/22	19.5%	12/5/22	21.5%		
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)									
Bodega Bay		no test	no test						
San Francisco		no test	no test						

~ Soak time 48hrs

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.