



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

May 6, 2025

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

QIN SSMA adjustment

Effective 8:00 a.m. on May 9, 2025, the temporary 200-pot limit within the QIN SSMA is lifted. Please note that the coastwide summer pot limit reduction, which took effect on May 1, 2025, remains in effect within this area. Vessels fishing a 500-pot license may fish a maximum of 330 pots, while a 300-pot license may fish a 200-pot maximum. The QIN SSMA is defined by the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47° 24.50' N. Lat., 124° 20.00' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47° 24.50' N. Lat., 124° 28.50' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47° 12.25' N. Lat., 124° 19.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47° 12.25' N. Lat., 124° 12.28' W. Lon.

The Quinalt Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) opened to state commercial crab fishers at on May 1, 2025, with a temporary 200-pot limit in place. A temporary pot limit was implemented to reduce the risk of gear conflicts between state and Quinalt vessels during tribal post-season gear recovery, efforts and to minimize crowding as state vessels entered the area. The temporary pot limit is being removed in response to low participation by the state fleet with the area, reducing crowding risk.

Quileute Special Management Area (SMA)

The Quileute SMA opened to State fishers on May 1, 2025. A **100-pot limit remains in effect within the QUIL SMA** until 8:00 AM June 1, 2025. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area by contacting Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or 360-580-0875. The Quileute SMA is defined by the following coordinates:

- 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.

14-day Landing Rule

Beginning May 1 through September 15, it is unlawful to leave Dungeness crab pots deployed in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Washington for more than 14 consecutive days without making a Dungeness crab landing. This gear tending requirement contributes to efforts to reduce entanglements with marine mammals and ensures that gear not being actively fish is removed from the water during the period when whales are more likely to be present off the Washington Coast.

For more information on this rule or other coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery rules, please visit the rules and regulations page on our website at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal>

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- **Vessels leaving the fishery must submit a departure report to WDFW before turning off their EM system.** Departure reports must contain vessel name, license number, and departure date. Reports can be sent by email to Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov or by text to Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596.
- Each crab pot must be rigged with line that is marked with 12 inches of continuous red in at least two places. At a minimum, 12 inches of continuous line must be marked in red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot. WAC 220-340-430 (6ii).
- License owners **MUST** register one unique buoy color scheme per coastal crab license with WDFW. License owners must complete buoy registration **annually** using the WDFW online registration form. To access the registration form visit: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1a6ae9a42a7342d4884f63a089968aa9>. For questions or assistance, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066.