

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FISH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Region 6

48 Devonshire Road
Montesano, WA 98563
(360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689

TO: Coastal Dungeness Crab Industry

FROM: Heather Reed, WDFW Coastal Dungeness crab Manager

Date: November 2, 2005

SUBJECT: Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Test Fishing Results

Washington completed the first round of pre-season testing fishing for coastal Dungeness crab condition. Testing for both the Westport and Long Beach areas was conducted on November 1, 2005. The season start date is dependant on a meat recovery rate projected to be 23% on December 1. WDFW will conduct another round of test fishing in mid November.

Crabs were collected from three stations at each area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30 and 45 fathoms at each station. All crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. While aboard the charter vessels, WDFW staff collected shell condition data (listed below) using crab that were randomly collected from all depths and stations. The results for both areas are summarized below.

11-1-05	1A	1B	II	III	Meat Recovery
Westport	11.3%	33.8%	54.5%	0.4%	22.1%
Long Beach	6.8%	21.5%	71.6%	0.0%	20.1%