

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

Region 6

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TO: Tri-State Dungeness Committee and PSMFC
FROM: Heather Reed, WDFW Coastal Dungeness crab Manager
Date: November 22, 2004

SUBJECT: Washington Coastal Dungeness Crab Test Fishing Results

Final test fishing results for Washington indicate that the coastal Dungeness crab season in Washington and Northern Oregon will be delayed until December 15, 2004. Final meat recovery figures for the area off the southern Washington coast were 19.8% on November 20, that rate of improvement projects to 21.5% on December 1. In order for the season to open on December 1 meat recovery numbers would have to be at least 23% on December 1. These results also trigger a delay in northern Oregon at least to Cape Falcon or Cascade Head as described in the Tri-State winter soft-shell agreement. Fair start provisions will be in place which prohibit fishers who start fishing on December 1 from fishing in an area that has been delayed for 30-days after the delayed area starts.

Shell condition

| Area | 1A | 1B | II | III | Pick-out |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| Long Beach 10-27-04 | 8.3% | 16.4% | 75.3% | 0.0 | 16.2% |
| Westport 11-4-04 | 9.0% | 16.3% | 74.6% | 0.0 | 19.2% |
| Westport 11-17-04 | 18.9% | 26.4% | 54.6% | 0.0 | 21.8% |
| Long Beach 11-20-04 | 22.6% | 33.2% | 44.2% | 0.0 | 19.8% |