

Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishers and Processors WDFW Industry Notice

January 8, 2010

The Coastal Dungeness Crab fishery will open to state fishers in the area between Destruction Island and the U.S. Canadian border at 12:01 am January 15, 2010

The harvest management plan with the Quileute tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15th prior to opening the state fishery. Weather and fishery data have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers and we agree that the 20 fishable day criteria have been met and that the opening of the state fishery north of Destruction Island can occur as scheduled on January 15, 2010. The will not be a 64-hour gear set period prior to the opening.

Two Special Management Areas (SMAs) will be in place between Destruction Island and the U.S. Canadian border on January 15, 2010.

Quileute SMA:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 12:01 am on January 15, 2010 until 8:00 AM, May 1, 2010.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner; Cape Johnson 47°58.00 - 124°40.40
- Northwest Corner; 47°58.00 N. - 124°49.00W.
- Southwest Corner; 47°40.50 N. - 124°40.00'W.
- Southeast Corner; Destruction Island 47°40.50 - 124° 24.43

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2010, through May 31, 2010. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Makah SMA

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 12:01 am on January 15, 2010 until 8:00 AM February 14, 2010. WDFW and Makah managers have reserved the opportunity to make inseason adjustments to the SMA opening date if necessary. Confirmation of the opening of the SMA will be provided in a future notice.

There will be a 200-pot limit in the SMA for the first 30-days following the opening of the SMA to state fishers. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15N. to 48°19.50N. east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner; Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner; 48°19.50 N. – 124°50.45 W.
- Southwest Corner; 48°02.15 N. – 124°50.45 W.
- Southeast Corner, 48°02.15 N. – 124°41.00 W.

Fair Start Provisions:

Vessels that fished in the area south of Klipsan Beach prior to the opening north of Klipsan Beach on January 2, 2010 can fish in the area:

- between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and Oysterville (46°33.00) beginning at 8:00 AM January 12, 2010.
- between Oysterville (46°33.00) and the U.S. Canadian border beginning at 8:00 AM February 6, 2010.