State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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July 13, 2010

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGNESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Changes to coastal Dungeness crab regulations:

- **Effective July 18, 2010 a weekly landing limit of 2,500 is in effect.**
- **Fishing in the area outside 4 miles will remain open until 8:00 a.m. August 1, 2010 at which time this area will close.**

It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds taken during each of the following coastal crab accounting periods:

July 18 through July 24, 2010;
July 25 through July 31, 2010;
August 1 through August 7, 2010;
August 8 through August 14, 2010;
August 15, 2010 through August 21, 2010
August 22, 2010 through August 28, 2010
August 29, 20201 through September 4, 2010
September 5 through September 11, 2010
September 12 through September 15, 2010

Any crab taken prior to July 18, 2010, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. July 17, 2010, become part of the July 18 through July 24, 2010 accounting period catch.

It is unlawful for any person to fish for crab during any accounting period while having on board any crab taken in a different accounting period.

JUSTIFICATION:

The Summer Fishery Management Plan calls for the implementation of management measures intended to protect the Dungeness crab resource when significant amounts of soft shelled crab are present during the commercial crab fishery.
In a letter sent to all commercial crab license holders dated June 18, 2010 WDFW outlined revisions in the Summer Fishery Management Plan. The Plan describes that starting the third week in June and continuing through September 15 WDFW will collect shell condition data at both dockside buying facilities and on board commercial vessels. If shipboard data indicates that less than 50% of the crab sampled are hard shelled OR if three dockside crab samples collected during a two week period indicates that less than 75% of the crab sampled are hard shelled a weekly landing limit of 2,500 pounds will be implemented. ***Recent sampling results (see table) have met these criteria.***

Sampling Period	Date	Type	A	B	II	III	% Hard	% Soft
1	6/17/10	Dockside	69%	14%	16%	0%	83%	16%
1	6/19/10	Dockside	35%	31%	34%	0%	66%	34%
1	6/22/10	Dockside	50%	33%	17%	0%	83%	17%
1	6/23/10	Dockside	43%	43%	14%	0%	86%	14%
1	6/23/10	Shipboard	44%	25%	31%	0%	69%	31%
2	6/28/10	Shipboard	36%	20%	44%	0%	56%	44%
2	6/30/10	Dockside	45%	34%	21%	0%	79%	21%
2	7/1/10	Shipboard	51%	21%	28%	0%	72%	28%
2	7/1/10	Shipboard	55%	8%	37%	0%	64%	37%
2	7/7/10	Dockside	35%	28%	37%	0%	63%	37%
2	7/8/10	Dockside	8%	11%	81%	0%	19%	81%
2	7/8/10	Dockside	23%	22%	54%	0%	46%	54%

Following the implementation of the 2,500 pound limit, if three dockside samples collected during subsequent two weeks periods again indicate that less than 75% of the crab sampled are hard shelled the weekly landing limit will be reduced to 1,200 pounds.

WDFW will continue to test the condition of crab at dockside buying stations and on shipboard ride along trips throughout the summer. If shell conditions improve following the implementation of either the 2,500 pound or 1,200 pound weekly limit the limit could be raised or lifted according to the provisions of the summer fishery management plan.