



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## INDUSTRY NOTICE

January 5, 2011

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and the US Canada Border will open at 12:01 am, January 15, 2011.**
- The state fleet that starts their season north of Klipsan Beach will **not** be required to start with a temporary reduced pot limit and will be allowed to deploy gear up to their full pot limit of 300 or 500.
- A **40-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am January 13, 2011.
- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on January 14, 2011. *(WDFW will work with fishers to minimize any difficulty with a shorter pre-set period by having staff available for hold inspections until late in the day on January 14.)*
- The **Fair Start Provisions** *(listed on page 3 of this notice)* apply to any Dungeness crab license holders, or any vessel or vessel operator designated on the license that participated in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 15, 2011.
- Temporary pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach will be removed at 8:00 am January 13, 2011.

As was discussed in our December 6, 2010 letter, WDFW's final agreement with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) included a state opening between Klipsan Beach and Destruction Island, Washington on January 15, 2011. This opening date was based on providing a 49 day head start for QIN which is the same head start that has been in place since the 2007-2008 season. Because shell condition issues delayed the start of the QIN season by a couple of days, WDFW and QIN agreed to an arrangement that would avoid further delaying the state season opening beyond January 15 by shortening the state pre-set period by 24 hours and keeping the Primary SMA in place for seven additional days (compared to the amount of time it was in place last season).

In addition to the terms outlined in our management agreement, WDFW has also agreed during the last two seasons to consider the quality of the QIN head start and if necessary require state fishers to start the season with a temporary reduced pot limit. Our analysis of the QIN head start indicates that the 2010-2011 head start is consistent with head starts in recent years and therefore we will not be implementing a temporary reduced pot limit for fishers that start north of Klipsan Beach.

In addition, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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, 2011. This opener will be preceded by the same pre-set period and hold inspection schedule as the opening from Klipsan Beach to Destruction Island, WA.

**Please pay close attention to the location of the Special Management Areas (SMAs) will be in place starting January 15, 2011.**

### **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:**

#### **Quinault:**

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to state fishers beginning at 12:01 AM January 15, 2011. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers through March 21, 2011. (*Note: this date is different than what was in our December 6, 2010 letter and is a result of the shorter pre-set period and the date that state gear goes in the water.*)

The Quinault **primary SMA** is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00N. Lat. – 124° 20.70 W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00N. Lat – 124°34.00 W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00N. Lat. – 124°25.50 W. Lon.\*
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00N. Lat. – 124° 11.20 W. Lon.

A Quinault **secondary SMA (SSMA)** will be established on March 21, 2011 to include the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50) according to 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°32.40 W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°25.50 W. Lon.\*
- Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00 N. Lat. 124°11.20 W. Lon.

**\*Note:** this coordinate was revised last year to better reflect the intention of following the 27 fathom depth contour.

When the area between Split Rock and Raft River opens, state fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area. Specific details regarding SMA openings and pot limits will be made available prior to opening.

#### **Quileute:**

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning immediately upon the opening of the state fishery in the area from Destruction Island to U.S. Canadian border. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2011.

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, 2011, through May 31, 2011. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

**Makah:**

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers immediately upon the opening of the state fishery in the area between Destruction Island and U.S. Canadian border and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 13, 2011.

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:**

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Vessels that fish between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on January 25, 2010**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to U.S. - Canadian Border:** Vessels that participate in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and U.S. - Canadian border at **8:00 am on February 19, 2010.**

**Other Requirements:**

- a. Vessels not designated on a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license are permitted to transport or deploy up to 250 pots during the pre-soak period. The primary operator of the vessel associated with the pots being transported must be aboard the vessel while they are being deployed.
- b. All license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- c. A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through January 31, 2011.
- d. WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.