



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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June 5, 2015

ATTENTION SPORT CRAB FISHERS

IMMEDIATE CLOSURE

The coastal waters between the Washington/Oregon border (46°15.00) and Point Chehalis, Washington (46°53.18), including the Columbia River and Willapa Bay are immediately CLOSED to the harvest and possession of Dungeness crab by both recreational and commercial fishers.

This action is a result of increasing levels of domoic acid in recent Dungeness crab samples. These levels now exceed the closure criteria established by the Washington Department of Health (WDOH.)

All crab gear also must be removed from the closed areas by 12:01 a.m. June 10 or it will be subject to confiscation by Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers. WDFW is requiring that any crab captured in either commercial or recreational gear in the area now closed to fishing must be returned to the water.

The area north of Point Chehalis remains open to both commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fishing.

Domoic acid, a natural toxin produced by certain types of marine algae, can be harmful or even fatal if consumed in sufficient quantities. Cooking or freezing does not destroy domoic acid in shellfish.