



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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December 18, 2023

Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – December 2023

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed the third round of testing for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery within the Long Beach Test Area. Testing was conducted to continue to monitor crab condition after meat recovery failed to reach the 23% threshold during the second round of testing on November 28, 2023.

Testing was conducted in accordance with the Tri-State Coastal Dungeness Crab Revised Pre-Season Testing Protocol, available at the following link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/pre-season-testing-protocols-2020-final.pdf>. Briefly, crab were collected from three stations; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. WDFW staff also collected shell condition data from the same crab collected from all depths. December test results for Washington and the entire coast are included at the end of this notice.

In accordance with the Tri-State protocol, representatives from WDFW, ODFW, and CDFW are scheduled to meet on December 20, 2023 to mutually decide to open the season on either December 31, January 15 or February 1. An industry notice with the decision will be published following the meeting.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provide the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Long Beach	12/17/23	6.6%	25.9%	67.5%	0%	20.7%	No Test

Definition of shell grades:

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B: slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

