Puget Sound State Commercial Crab Packet

2019-2020 Season
## 2019-20 Puget Sound Commercial Crab Packet

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Dear Puget Sound Commercial Crab Fishers and Dealers:

This letter is to inform you of regulation changes for the 2019-2020 commercial Dungeness crab season, which begins at 8:00 a.m. on October 1, 2019. It is your responsibility as the Puget Sound Dungeness Crab license owner or wholesale dealer to communicate this important information to the alternate operators and buyers who work for you. The current permanent fishing rules and provisions and the emergency (temporary) rules are included in this season’s commercial packet. The emergency rules replace specific sections of the permanent rules. Both permanent and emergency rules must be read together for a complete understanding of the 2019-2020 season regulations. For example, if the permanent rules indicate an area opens on November 1 and the emergency rules list October 15 as the opening date, the area will open on October 15.

As a reminder, four years ago there was a change to the RCW’s outlining the number of permits that can be stacked on a single vessel. RCW 77-65-100 and RCW 77-65-130 were amended to allow the stacking of up to three licenses on a single designated vessel.

Please review the regulatory provisions and the following information carefully before fishing and feel free to contact an agency employee at the numbers listed below if you have questions.

The following regulations will be implemented this season:

Initial crabbing period and regional crab pot limits

The Puget Sound Commercial Crab Fishery will open Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

For Crab Management Region 1, Region 2 East, Region 2 West, Region 3-1, Region 3-2, and Region 3-3, effective 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, until further notice it is unlawful for any person to fish for crabs for commercial purposes with more than 50 pots per license per buoy tag.

The remaining buoy tags per license per region must be onboard the designated vessel and available for immediate inspection in Crab Management Regions 1, 2 East, 2 West, 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3.

Please see the enclosed map of region and catch area boundaries. Any in-season changes to regional pot limits and information about reopening regions for commercial crabbing will be announced on the website at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/pugetsound/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/pugetsound/). The phone hotline has been discontinued.

Questions may be directed to Don Velasquez at (425) 775-1311 x112, Katelyn Bosley at (360) 302-3030 x319, or Bob Sizemore at (360) 302-3030 x303.

**Crab pot barging**

Setting crab pot gear from a vessel not designated on a crab license (“barging”) will be allowed in Regions 1, 3-1, and 3-3 only. Barging will not be allowed in Region 2 East, Region 2 West, or Region 3-2.

Barging in Regions 1, 3-1, and 3-3 will be allowed from 8:00 a.m. on October 1, 2019 until 7:00 p.m. on October 2, 2019 only, provided that the operator or alternate operator designated on the license is on board the non-designated vessel and notice is given to WDFW. The license owner must leave a telephone message at the Mill Creek Regional office, (425) 775-1311 x112 or by email to crabreport@dfw.wa.gov with the following information:

- License Owner(s)
- License Number(s)
- Primary Operator
- Alt Operator
- Buoy Brand
- # of Pots
- Name of Barging Vessel
- Barging Vessel CG ID # or WN #
- Region or Set Location

**Non-commercial and Limited-commercial Areas**

**Dungeness Bay Non-commercial Area:**
The State commercial crab fishery is closed in that portion of Marine Fish/Shellfish Catch Area 25A west of the 123° 7.0” longitude line projected true south from the New Dungeness light to the southern shore of Dungeness Bay (see WAC 220-340-45500W).
Port Angeles Harbor Non-commercial Area:
That portion of Marine Fish/Shellfish Catch Area 23D west of a line from the eastern tip of Ediz Hook to the ITT Rayonier Dock (Port Angeles Harbor) will be closed to commercial crab harvest this season (see WAC 220-340-45500W) based on recommendations from the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services.

Commercial crab fishing will be open at 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, in the following areas until further notice (see WAC 220-340-45500W and enclosed maps, for a complete description of area boundaries):

• **Outer Birch Bay Limited-Commercial Area**: Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A between a line from the boat ramp at the western boundary of Birch Bay State Park to the western point of the entrance of the Birch Bay Marina and a line from the same boat ramp to Birch Point.

• **Fidalgo Bay Limited-Commercial Area**: Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22B in Fidalgo Bay south of a line projected from the red number 4 entrance buoy at Cap Sante Marina to the northern end of the eastern most oil dock.

• **Deer Harbor Limited-Commercial Area**: Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Deer Harbor north of a line projected from Steep Point to Pole Pass.

• **Useless Bay Limited-Commercial Area**: Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A-W in Useless Bay north and east of a line from the south end of the Double Bluff State Park seawall (47°58.782'N, 122°30.840'W) projected 110 degrees true to the boulder on shore (47°57.690'N, 122°26.742'W).

• **Port Gardner Limited-Commercial Area**: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line projected from the outermost tip of the ferry dock at Mukilteo, projected to the green #3 buoy at the mouth of the Snohomish River, and west of a line projected from that #3 buoy southward to the oil boom pier on the shoreline.

• **Possession Point to Glendale Limited-Commercial Area**: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line that extends true north from the green #1 buoy at Possession Point to Possession Point, and west of a line from the green #1 buoy at Possession Point extending northward along the 200-foot depth contour to the Glendale dock.

• **Langley Limited Commercial Area**: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24C shoreward of the 400-foot depth contour within an area described by two lines projected northeasterly from Sandy Point and the entrance to the marina at Langley.

The permanent regulation regarding all other non-commercial and limited-commercial areas not listed above is found in **WAC 220-340-455**, which is enclosed in this mailing.
Maps showing approximate non-commercial and limited-commercial zone boundaries and descriptions of these areas are enclosed for your convenience. Note that the state commercial fishery is closed in areas designated on the maps as “Special Management Areas”.

**Buoy Tags**

- Buoy tags are being issued as a one-year tag. The permanent regulations addressing the use of buoy tags are included with this letter ([WAC 220-340-430](https://app.leg.wa.gov/bill_summary.cfm?LegYear=2021&BillNum=220&Section=340-430), [WAC 220-340-440](https://app.leg.wa.gov/bill_summary.cfm?LegYear=2021&BillNum=220&Section=340-440)) and the following process will again be used for obtaining replacement tags:

- Additional tags to replace lost tags will only be issued to the owners or operators of Puget Sound commercial crab fishery licenses. There is a $1.25 charge for each replacement tag. The charge per fisher, for replacement tags needed during the 2019-20 season, will be billed to those fishers when they purchase tags for the 2020-21 season.

- To obtain replacement tags, the owner must complete and sign a declaration form in the presence of a designated agency employee, stating the number of pots/buoy tags lost, the location and date where the pot gear or tags were last observed, and the presumed cause of loss. Replacement tags can only be obtained in person at the following designated locations and from the following agency staff:

  **Mill Creek Regional Office**  
  16018 Mill Creek Blvd.  
  Mill Creek, WA  
  - Don Velasquez (425) 775-1311 x112  
  - George Peterson (425) 775-1311 x119

  **Port Townsend Office**  
  375 Hudson St.  
  Port Townsend, WA 98368  
  - Katelyn Bosley (360) 302-3030 x319  
  - Bob Sizemore (360) 302-3030 x303  
  - Karen Nordstrom (360) 302-3030 x320  
  - Doug Rogers (360) 302-3030 x311

  **LaConner District Office**  
  111 Sherman St.  
  LaConner, WA  
  - Ralph Downes (360) 202-7562

  **Bellingham District Office**  
  2620 N. Harbor Loop Dr, Suite 20  
  Bellingham, WA  
  - Chad Paul or Samantha Bund (360) 676-2146

  **License Division**  
  Natural Resources Building  
  1111 Washington St. SE  
  Olympia, WA 98501  
  - Commercial Licenses (360) 902-2464
To ensure that appropriate staff will be on site to distribute replacement tags, please contact designated staff at the office where you plan to obtain replacement tags to schedule an appointment. Declaration forms will be available at the time of receiving replacement tags.

The following regulations for crab buyers will be implemented again this season:

- We require daily reports by crab buyers during the 2019-20 season to improve our ability to monitor the state commercial harvest in each region. You must report daily purchases of Puget Sound crab harvested by non-treaty fishers no later than 10:00 a.m. the following business day. For more details, see permanent WAC 220-352-340. Reports must be made by fax or e-mail.

- The reports must be made to the Mill Creek Regional Office by fax at 425-338-1066 (see current emergency regulations under WAC 220-352-24000B) or by e-mail to crabreport@dfw.wa.gov. For your convenience, an optional FAX reporting form has been included in this packet. An electronic version of this form is available on request to the crabreport e-mail address. Fax and E-mail reports must specify the dealer name, dealer phone number, date of delivery of crabs to the original receiver, and the total number of pounds of crab caught by non-treaty fishers by Crab Management Region or Marine Fish/Shellfish Catch Area. The fish receiving ticket-reporting requirement of WAC 220-352-340 remains in effect.

- Dealers/Buyers can NOT leave voice messages for catch reports.

- According to WAC 220-352-340, it is unlawful for any original receiver of crab to fail to record ALL crab aboard the vessel making the delivery to the original receiver. The poundage of any crab deemed to be unmarketable, discards, or weigh backs must be shown on the fish receiving ticket, but a zero dollar value may be entered for such crab.

Complete regulations and landings information that pertain to the 2019-2020 Puget Sound commercial crab fishery can be found on the WDFW web site.

**WDFW web site for the commercial crab fishery:**
http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/pugetsound/

Please note that this material will NOT be printed out in hardcopy and mailed out to everyone. In the interest of conducting more efficient business practices, the former “mailer” is now posted in the WDFW website’s commercial section. This section will continue to be updated with in-season harvest numbers, detailed color charts for special zones, and current emergency regulations. If you need a printed copy of this pre-season information packet please call 425-775-1311 ext. 112 with your request and be sure to leave your name and mailing address.
Have a safe and productive season.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Bosley,
Puget Sound Shellfish Biologist, (360) 302-3030 ext. 319 Port Townsend

Don Velasquez,
Puget Sound Shellfish Biologist, (425) 775-1311 ext. 112
Mill Creek

cc: Bob Sizemore, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager
    WDFW Enforcement

See also:

- Map of Shellfish Management Regions
- Maps and Descriptions of Non-commercial and Limited Commercial Areas
- Emergency Regulations
- Permanent Regulations:
• WAC 220-301-040
• WAC 220-302-100
• WAC 220-320-060
• WAC 220-320-100
• WAC 220-320-110
• WAC 220-340-020
• WAC 220-340-060
• WAC 220-340-400
• WAC 220-340-410
• WAC 220-340-420
• WAC 220-340-430
• WAC 220-340-435
• WAC 220-340-440
• WAC 220-340-455
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• WAC 220-352-160
• WAC 220-352-210
• WAC 220-352-220
• WAC 220-352-230
• WAC 220-352-250
• WAC 220-352-340
INITIAL EMERGENCY REGULATION

ORDER NO. 19-236

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-42000V Commercial crab fishery—unlawful acts.
Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-420:
(1) It is permissible to deploy Dungeness crab pots for commercial purposes starting at 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019 until 7:00 p.m. October 2, 2019, in Region 1, Region 3-1 and Region 3-3 from a vessel not designated on a person’s Puget Sound crab license, provided that the primary or alternate operator designated on the license is on board the non-designated vessel (“barge” vessel), and prior notice has been given as provided below. Crab pots may only be deployed during daylight hours.


(3) The licensed owner must leave a telephone message at the Mill Creek office, (425) 775-1311 ext. 112, or send an email to crabreport@dfw.wa.gov, detailing the following information:
   (a) Name and license number of licensed owner.
   (b) Name of designated primary operator if different from licensed owner.
   (c) Name of alternate operator if used to deploy pots from a non-designated vessel.
   (d) Buoy brand number and number of pots to be deployed from a non-designated vessel.
   (e) Name and identification numbers (WN and/or Coast Guard) of the non-designated vessel.

(4) Additional area gear limits. The following Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas are restricted in the number of pots fished, operated, or used by a person or vessel, and it is unlawful for any person to use, maintain, operate, or control pots in excess of the following limits: No commercial gear is allowed in that portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A west of the 123° 7.0’ longitude line projected from the new Dungeness light due south to the shore of Dungeness Bay.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45500W Commercial crab fishery--Seasons and areas--Puget Sound.
Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-450:

(1) Effective 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, until further notice, it is unlawful for any person to fish for crabs for commercial purposes with more than 50 pots per license per buoy tag number in Crab Management Regions 1, Region 2 East, Region 2 West, Region 3-1, Region 3-2, or Region 3-3. These regions include Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Areas 20A, 20B, 21A, 21B, 22A, 22B, 23A, 23B, 23C, 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 25B, 25D, 26A East, 26 A West and 29.
(2) All remaining buoy tags per license per region must be onboard the designated vessel and available for immediate inspection.

(3) Effective 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, until further notice, it is permissible to fish for Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the following areas:
   (a) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A between a line from the boat ramp at the western boundary of Birch Bay State Park to the western point of the entrance of the Birch Bay Marina and a line from the same boat ramp to Birch Point.
   (b) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22B in Fidalgo Bay south of a line projected from the red number 4 entrance buoy at Cape Sante Marina to the northern end of the eastern most oil dock.
   (c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Deer Harbor north of a line projected from Steep Point to Pole Pass.

(4) Effective 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, until further notice, it is permissible to fish for Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the following areas:
   Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A-W in Useless Bay north and east of a line from the south end of the Double Bluff State Park seawall (47°58.782'N, 122°30.840'W) projected 110 degrees true to the boulder on shore (47°57.690'N, 122°26.742'W).

(5) Effective 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, until further notice, it is permissible to fish for Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in the following areas:
   (a) Port Gardner: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line projected from the outermost tip of the ferry dock at Mukilteo, projected to the green #3 buoy at the mouth of the Snohomish River, and west of a line projected from that #3 buoy southward to the oil boom pier on the shoreline.
   (b) Possession Point to Glendale: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line that extends true north from the green #1 buoy at Possession Point to Possession Point, and west of a line from the green #1 buoy at Possession Point extending northward along the 200-foot depth contour to the Glendale dock.
   (c) Langley: That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24C shoreward of the 400-foot depth contour within an area described by two lines projected northeasterly from Sandy Point and the entrance to the marina at Langley.

(6) Effective 8:00 a.m. October 1, 2019, until further notice, the following areas are closed to commercial crab fishing:
   (a) That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A west of the 123° 7.0’ longitude line projected from the new Dungeness light due south to the shore of Dungeness Bay.
   (b) That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 23D west of a line from the eastern tip of Ediz Hook to the ITT Rayonier Dock.
(c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24A east of a line projected true north from the most westerly tip of Skagit Island and extending south to the most westerly tip of Hope Island, thence southeast to Seal Rocks, thence southeast to the green can buoy at the mouth of Swinomish Channel, thence easterly to the west side of Goat Island.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-352-34000B Puget Sound crab--Additional reporting requirements.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-352-340, effective 8:00 am, October 1, 2019, until further notice, it is unlawful for any wholesale dealer acting in the capacity of an original receiver of Dungeness crab taken by non-treaty fishers from Puget Sound to fail to report to the department the previous day’s purchases by 10:00 a.m. the following day. Reports must be made by fax to (425) 338-1066 or by e-mail at crabreport@dfw.wa.gov, and must specify the dealer name, dealer phone number, date of delivery of crab to the original receiver, and the total number of pounds of crab caught by non-treaty fishers, by Crab Management Region or by Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area.

Reasons for this finding: The provisions of this emergency rule will open the commercial crab harvest areas on October 1, 2019 in Puget Sound with a limit of 50 pots per license per buoy tag number in all commercial crab Regions. There is sufficient allocation available in all of the commercial regions to accommodate this opening. These provisions are in conformity with agreed management plans with applicable tribes. These management plans are entered into as required by court order. The Puget Sound commercial season is structured to meet harvest allocation objectives negotiated with applicable Treaty tribes and outlined in the management plans. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

(19-236, 9/26/2019)
PUGET SOUND COMMERCIAL CRAB MANAGEMENT REGIONS AND CORRESPONDING MARINE FISH/ SHELLFISH CATCH AREAS
Non-commercial and Limited Commercial Crab Areas
North Puget Sound, San Juans

Key to area designations
- Special Management Area (no State commercial crabbing)
- Limited Commercial Area
- Non-Commercial Area (all season)

This map shows approximate boundaries only. Refer to the current regulations for exact boundary descriptions.
This map shows approximate boundaries only. Refer to the current regulations for exact boundary descriptions.
Non-commercial and Limited Commercial Crab Areas
 Strait of Juan de Fuca

Key to area designations
- Special Management Area (no State commercial crabbing)
- Limited Commercial Area
- Non-Commercial Area (all season)

This map shows approximate boundaries only. Refer to the current regulations for exact boundary descriptions.
Commercial Dungeness Crab Quick Reporting Form
Fax to WDFW Mill Creek Office at: (425) 338-1066
You can also send a PDF of this form to: crabreport@dfw.wa.gov

Dealer Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ________________

Dealer ID Number: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Pounds Purchased:

 Region 1 (Catch Areas 20A, 20B, 21A, 21B, 22A, and 22B)  TOTAL _____________

 Region 2E (Catch Areas 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 26AE)  TOTAL _____________

 Region 2W (Catch Areas 25B, 25D, and 26AW)  TOTAL _____________

 Region 3-1 (Catch Areas 23A and 23B)  TOTAL _____________

 Region 3-2 (Catch Areas 23D, 25A, and 25E)  TOTAL _____________

 Region 3-3 (Catch Areas 23C and 29)  TOTAL _____________
PERMANENT REGULATIONS

WAC 220-301-040

Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas, Puget Sound.

(1) Area 20A shall include those waters of Puget Sound north of a line projected from Village Point, Lummi Island through the navigation buoy just east of Matia Island thence to the buoy at Clements Reef thence to the easternmost point of Patos Island and from the westernmost point of Patos Island due east to the international boundary; and west of a line from Point Francis through the marker north of Inati Bay, Lummi Island to Lummi Island.

(2) Area 20B shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 20A, westerly of a line from Lummi Island through Lummi Rocks to the northernmost tip of Sinclair Island, and northerly of a line from the northernmost tip of Sinclair Island to Lawrence Point on Orcas Island and a line which runs from Steep Point on Orcas Island to Limestone Point on San Juan Island and then to Green Point on the eastern tip of Speiden Island and from the western tip of Speiden Island true west to the international boundary.

(3) Area 21A shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly and easterly of Areas 20A and 20B, and westerly of a line from William Point to Governor's Point, and northerly of a line from William Point to the southernmost tip of Vendovi Island to the Sinclair Island light.

(4) Area 21B shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly of and adjacent to Area 21A.

(5) Area 22A shall include those waters of Puget Sound south of Area 20B, westerly of 122° 40' W between Sinclair Island and Fidalgo Island and the Deception Pass Bridge; northerly of a line due east from the international boundary to a point 1 nautical mile from Pile Point, San Juan Island, thence southeasterly along a line 1 nautical mile from the southern shores of San Juan Island and Lopez Island to Davidson Rock near Point Colville, then easterly to a point one nautical mile south of the buoy at Lawson Reef and than due east to Whidbey Island.

(6) Area 22B shall include those waters of Puget Sound south of Area 21A, east of 22A, and north of the railroad bridges at Swinomish Channel.

(7) Area 23A shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 22A; westerly and northerly of a line described as follows: A line segment from Davidson Rock near Point Colville, Lopez Island to a point 2 nautical miles from the Smith Island light thence continuing westerly and southerly 2 nautical miles from the Smith Island light until the line intersects with a line between Smith Island light and the vessel traffic service buoy north of Dungeness Spit, thence to the vessel traffic service buoy, thence southerly and westerly to a point 1 1/2 nautical miles north of the Ediz Hook light thence north to the international boundary.

(8) Area 23B shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 22A; easterly of 23A; and northerly of a line due west from Partridge Point, Whidbey Island to its intersection with Area 23A.

(9) Area 23C shall include those waters of Puget Sound westerly of Area 23A and a line due north from the Ediz Hook light to the international boundary; and easterly of a line projected due north from the mouth of the Sekiu River.

(10) Area 23D shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 23A and easterly of Area 23C and westerly of a line from the Dungeness light to the vessel traffic
service buoy north of Dungeness light.

(11) **Area 24A** shall include those waters of Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay east of a line between Polnell Point and Rocky Point, Camano Island; south of Area 22B; and east of Area 22A, and north of the Highway 532 Bridge between Camano Island and the mainland.

(12) **Area 24B** shall include those waters of Port Susan south of Area 24A and north of a line from Camano Head on Camano Island to the north tip of Gedney Island and from the southern tip of Gedney Island east to the mainland.

(13) **Area 24C** shall include those waters of Saratoga Passage west of Area 24A; north of a line projected due west of Hackney Island; and northwest of a line from Sandy Point, Whidbey Island to Camano Head, Camano Island.

(14) **Area 24D** shall include Holmes Harbor south of a line projected due west from Hackney Island to Whidbey Island.

(15) **Area 25A** shall include those waters of Puget Sound south of Areas 23A and 23B; east of Area 23D; north of a line projected from Diamond Point to Cape George, and westerly of a line projected from Point Partridge on Whidbey Island to Point Wilson.

(16) **Area 25B** shall include those waters of Admiralty Inlet east of Area 25A; northeast of a line projected from Point Hudson to Marrowstone Point; and north of a line projected from Olele Point to Foulweather Bluff continuing to Double Bluff on Whidbey Island.

(17) **Area 25C** shall include those waters of Hood Canal south of Area 25B and north of the Hood Canal Floating Bridge.

(18) **Area 25D** shall include those waters of Port Townsend Bay southwest of Area 25B.

(19) **Area 25E** shall include those waters of Discovery Bay south of Area 25A.

(20) **Area 26A** shall include those waters of Puget Sound south of Areas 24B, 24C, and 25B and northerly of a line from Apple Cove Point to Point Edwards.

(21) **Area 26B** shall include those waters of Puget Sound south of Area 26A, and east of a line from Point Monroe, Bainbridge Island to the mouth of Miller Bay, and east of a line from Beans Point on Bainbridge Island to Orchard Point, and northerly of a line from the ferry dock at Point Southworth to Brace Point.

(22) **Area 26C** shall include those waters of Puget Sound westerly and adjacent to Area 26B.

(23) **Area 26D** shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 26B and northerly of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

(24) **Area 27A** shall include those waters of Hood Canal southerly of the Hood Canal Floating Bridge and northerly of a line from Misery Point to Quatsap Point.

(25) **Area 27B** shall include those waters of Hood Canal south of Area 27A and north of a line from Lilliwaup Creek to Dewatto.

(26) **Area 27C** shall include those waters of Hood Canal south of Area 27B.

(27) **Area 28A** shall include those waters of Puget Sound southerly and westerly of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, south of a line projected from Penrose Point to Green Point in Carr Inlet, south of a line projected from Point Wilson to Whiteman Cove in Case Inlet, and east of a line projected from Brisco Point to Dofflemyer Point.

(28) **Area 28B** shall include all waters of Carr Inlet north of a line projected from Penrose Point to Green Point.

(29) **Area 28C** shall include those waters of Case Inlet and Pickering Passage north of a line projected from Wilson Point to Whiteman Cove, and north of the highway bridge from the west side of Hartstene Island.
(30) **Area 28D** shall include those waters west of Area 28A and south of Area 28C.
(31) **Area 29** shall include those waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca west of Area 23C and east of a line projected from the Bonilla Point light on Vancouver Island to the Tatoosh Island light, then to the most westerly point of Cape Flattery.
(32) This WAC will not apply to hardshell clams, oysters, or geoducks.

**WAC 220-302-100**

**San Juan Islands Marine Preserve Area.**

The following tidal and submerged lands are included within the definition of the "San Juan Islands Marine Preserve Area":

(1) **False Bay:** The tidelands and bedlands of False Bay on San Juan Island, including all University of Washington-owned tidelands beginning at a marker 400 feet east of the east entrance of False Bay and extending to the entrance of False Bay, all University of Washington-owned tidelands and bedlands within a line beginning at the University of Washington marker on the shore at the east entrance of False Bay, projected 500 yards offshore, thence northwesterly to a point 500 yards offshore along a line projected from a University of Washington marker on the shore at the west side of a small peninsula at the west entrance of False Bay, thence to shore along said line to the marker, and all University of Washington-owned tidelands west of the marker to a University of Washington marker 600 feet west of the small peninsula.

(2) **Friday Harbor:** Those tidelands and bedlands adjacent to San Juan Island within a line beginning on the shore 500 yards west of Point Caution, thence 500 yards offshore, thence south and east following the shoreline to the intersection with a line projected from a University of Washington marker located 100 feet north of the north entrance of the floating breakwater of the Port of Friday Harbor and projected towards Reid Rock Buoy, thence along said line to shore on San Juan Island.

(3) **Argyle Lagoon:** Those University of Washington-owned tidelands and all bedlands enclosed by the inner spit of Argyle Lagoon on San Juan Island.

(4) **Yellow and Low Islands:** All tidelands and bedlands within 300 yards of Yellow Island and 300 yards of Low Island.

(5) **Shaw Island:** Those tidelands and bedlands within a line beginning at a University of Washington marker on the shore at Hicks Bay, 122 degrees, 58 minutes, 15 seconds west longitude, thence due south 500 yards, thence north and west at a distance of 500 yards from shore to the intersection with a line projected 261 degrees true from a University of Washington marker on the shore of Parks Bay, which line passes just south of the unnamed island at the north end of Parks Bay, thence along said line to the shore of Shaw Island, including all tidelands and bedlands of Parks Bay south of said line.

**WAC 220-320-060**

**General provisions—Shellfish.**

(1) It is unlawful to drive or operate any motor-propelled vehicle, land any airplane or ride or lead any horse on the razor clam beds of the state of Washington, as defined in WAC 220-320-030. A violation of this subsection shall be punished as an infraction.
(2) It is unlawful to possess soft-shelled crab for any commercial purpose.
(3) It is unlawful to possess in the field any crab from which the back shell has been removed.
(4) It is unlawful to willfully damage crab or other shellfish. Any crab taken incidentally to a net fishery must be immediately returned to the water with the least possible damage to the crab.
(5) "Shellfish" includes all bodily parts but does not include five pounds or less of relic shells of classified shellfish or relic shells of unclassified freshwater and marine invertebrates. A relic (dead) shell is defined as one which apparently died of natural causes and contains no meat or soft parts; it readily exhibits noticeable sediment, vegetation, algal or mineral stains, discolorations, soiling, weathering or other visual evidence on its interior surface which clearly and unambiguously shows the shell has not been cooked-out or freshly cleaned. No license or permit is required to take or possess up to five pounds of relic shells per day. It is unlawful to take or possess more than five pounds of relic shells without first obtaining a scientific collection permit. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, it is unlawful to remove relic oyster shells from tidelands.

WAC 220-320-100

Crab—General unlawful acts.

(1) It is unlawful to take or possess soft-shelled crab for any purpose. Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.160 or 77.15.550, depending on whether the crab was taken for personal use or commercial purposes.
(2) It is unlawful for any person to take or possess any female Dungeness crab for any purpose. All female Dungeness crab caught must be released immediately. Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.380 or 77.15.550, depending on whether the crab was taken for personal use or commercial purposes.
(3) It is unlawful to use bleach or antifreeze bottles or any other container as a float for gear used in recreational or commercial crab harvesting. Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.382 or 77.15.520, depending on whether the crab was taken for personal use or commercial purposes.

WAC 220-320-110

Puget sound crab management regions.

The following areas are defined as Puget Sound Crab Management Regions:
(4) Crab Management Region 3, subarea 3-1 - (Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca). All waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 23A and 23B.
(5) Crab Management Region 3, subarea 3-2 - (Central Strait of Juan de Fuca). All waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 23D, 25A, and 25E.
(6) Crab Management Region 3, subarea 3-3 - (Western Strait of Juan de Fuca). All waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 23C and 29.
(7) Crab Management Region 4 - (Southern Central Puget Sound). All waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 26B and 26C.
(9) Crab Management Region 6 - (South Puget Sound). All waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 26D, 28A, 28B, 28C, and 28D.

WAC 220-340-020

Shellfish—Unlawful acts—Commercial.

(1) It is unlawful to take oysters or clams for commercial purposes from tidelands reserved for public use unless authorized by a permit issued by the director.
(2)(a) It is unlawful to take shellfish for commercial purposes from state oyster reserves without permission of the director of fisheries.
   (b) Licensing: An oyster reserve fishery license is the license required to take shellfish for commercial purposes from state oyster reserves.
(3) All geoduck and mechanical clam harvester vessels shall be issued an identification number. It is unlawful to fail to place this number in a visible location on each side of the vessel and on the top of the cabin or deck awning to be visible from the air. A sign board or banner arranged so the numbers can be seen at all times from directly overhead may be substituted if the vessel does not have a fixed roof. The numbers shall be black on a white background and shall be not less than 18 inches high and of proportionate width.
(4) It shall be unlawful for a commercial clam digger to harvest clams from intertidal ground without having on his person a signed authorization from the registered clam farmer for whom he is harvesting. The digger will also be required to have suitable personal identification with him when engaged in clam harvesting. The authorization from the registered clam farmer must be legible, dated and must contain the date on which the authorization expires, provided that in no instance may the authorization go beyond the end of any calendar year. The authorization must additionally contain the name of each bay or area where the registered clam farmer has owned or leased ground from which the named clam digger is authorized to harvest.
(5)(a) It is unlawful to fish for or possess ghost or mud shrimp taken for commercial purposes unless authorized by a permit issued by the director.
   (b) Licensing: A burrowing shrimp fishery license is the license required to take ghost or mud shrimp for commercial purposes.
(6) It is unlawful to set any shellfish pot gear such that the pot is not covered by water at all tide levels.

WAC 220-340-060

Commercial shellfish pot gear—Escape mechanism required.

It is unlawful to fish for or possess crab, shrimp, or crawfish taken for commercial
purposes with shellfish pot gear unless the gear allows for escapement using at least one of the following methods:

(1) Attachment of pot lid hooks or tiedown straps with a single strand or loop of untreated cotton twine or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120 so that the pot lid will open freely if the twine or fiber is broken. It is permissible to use a single strand of cotton twine or other natural fiber tied together at the ends so that it can be looped between the tie down straps and the lid hook to connect them together.

(2) Providing an opening in the pot mesh no less than three inches by five inches and laced or sewn closed with one single strand of untreated cotton twine or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120. The single strand of cotton may not be wrapped multiple times or doubled in any way when lacing or sewing the wire mesh closed. The opening must be located within the top half of the pot and be unimpeded by the entry tunnels, bait boxes, or any other structures or materials.

WAC 220-340-400
Definition—Commercial crab fishing.

"Commercial crab fishing" means any taking, fishing, use, or operation of gear to fish for crab for commercial purposes, and includes the possession of crab on the water for commercial purposes, and the landing or initial delivery of crab for commercial purposes.

WAC 220-340-410
Commercial crab licenses.

(1) It is unlawful to take, fish for, land, or deliver crab for commercial purposes in Washington or coastal waters unless the person has the license required by statute or department rule, or if the person is a properly designated alternative operator to a valid license.

(a) For Puget Sound, a person must have a "Dungeness crab - Puget Sound" fishery license provided by RCW 77.65.130.

(b) For coastal waters, such person must have a "Dungeness crab - Coastal" fishery license provided by RCW 77.65.130.

(c) To use ring nets instead of or in addition to pots, a licensee must also have the "Crab ring net - Puget Sound" or "Crab ring net - non-Puget Sound" license as provided in RCW 77.65.130.

(d) Qualifications for the limited entry licenses, requirements for designating vessels, and use of alternate operators are provided in and controlled by chapters 77.65 and 77.70 RCW.

(2) It is unlawful to fish for or possess Dungeness crab or to set crab gear in waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the states of Oregon or California without the licenses or permits required to commercially fish for Dungeness crab within the state waters of Oregon or California. Washington coastal Dungeness crab permits are valid only in Washington state waters, the Columbia River, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, and the Pacific Ocean in federal waters north of the Washington/Oregon border (46°15'00"N. Lat.), extending 200 nautical miles westward.

(3) Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor or a class C felony under RCW 77.15.500 Commercial fishing without a license—Penalty, depending on the circumstances of
the violation.

**WAC 220-340-420**

**Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts.**

(1) **Crab size and sex restrictions.** It is unlawful for any person acting for commercial purposes to take, possess, deliver, or otherwise control:

(a) Any female Dungeness crab; or

(b) Any male Dungeness crab measuring less than 6-1/4 inches, caliper measurement, at the widest part of the shell immediately in front of the points (tips).

(2) Violation of subsection (1) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony depending on the value of fish or shellfish taken, possessed, or delivered, punishable under RCW 77.15.550 (1)(c).

(3) **Incidental catch may not be retained.** It is unlawful to retain salmon, food fish, or any shellfish other than octopus that is taken incidental to any commercial crab fishing.

(4) **Net fishing boats must not have crab on board.** It is unlawful for any person to possess any crab on board a vessel geared or equipped with commercial net fishing gear while fishing with the net gear for commercial purposes or while commercial quantities of food fish or shellfish are on board. Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony punishable under RCW 77.15.550(1), depending on the quantity of crab taken or possessed.

(5) **Area must be open to commercial crabbing.** It is unlawful for any person to set, maintain, or operate any baited or unbaited shellfish pots or ring nets for taking crab for commercial purposes in any area or time that is not open for commercial crabbing by rule of the department, except when acting lawfully under the authority of a valid gear recovery permit as provided in WAC 220-340-450.

(6) Violation of subsection (5) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony punishable under RCW 77.15.550, or a gross misdemeanor punishable under RCW 77.15.522 depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(7) **When it is unlawful to buy or land crab from the ocean without a crab vessel inspection.** It is unlawful for any fisher or wholesale fish buyer to land or purchase Dungeness crab taken from Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, the Columbia River, or Washington coastal or adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean from any vessel that has not been issued a Washington crab vessel inspection certificate during the first 30 days following the opening of a coastal crab season.

(a) Authorized department personnel will perform inspections for Washington crab vessel inspection certificates no earlier than 12 hours prior to the opening of the coastal crab season and during the following 30-day period.

(b) A Washington crab vessel inspection certificate may be issued to vessels made available for inspection at a Washington coastal port that:

(i) Are properly licensed commercial crab fishing; and

(ii) Contain no Dungeness crab on board the vessel.

(8) Violation of subsection (7) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550 (1)(a) Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.

(9) **Coastal - Barging of crab pots by undesignated vessels.** It is unlawful for a vessel not designated on a Dungeness crab coastal fishery license to deploy crab pot gear
except under the following conditions:
   (a) The vessel deploys pot gear only during the 64-hour period immediately preceding
       the season opening date and during the 48-hour period immediately following the season
       opening date;
   (b) The undesignated vessel carries no more than 250 crab pots at any one time; and
   (c) The primary or alternate operator of the crab pot gear named on the license
       associated with the gear is on board the undesignated vessel while the gear is being deployed.
   (10) Violation of subsection (9) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony
       punishable under RCW 77.15.500 Commercial fishing without a license—Penalty, depending
       on the circumstances of the violation.

WAC 220-340-430
Commercial crab fishery—Buoy tag, pot tag, and buoy requirements.

   (1) Buoy tag and pot tag required.
       (a) It is unlawful to place in the water, pull from the water, possess on the water, or
           transport on the water any crab buoy or crab pot without an attached buoy tag and pot tag that
           meet the requirements of this section, except as provided by (b) and (c) of this subsection. A
           violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful
           gear or methods—Penalty.
       (b) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear recovery permit as provided in WAC
           220-340-440 may possess crab pots or buoys missing tags or bearing the tags of another
           license holder, provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit. Failure to adhere to
           the provisions of the permit is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.750
           Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.
       (c) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear transport permit as provided in WAC
           220-340-440 may possess crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state,
           provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit. Failure to adhere to the provisions
           of the permit is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.750 Unlawful use of a
           department permit—Penalty.
   (2) Commercial crab fishery pot tag requirements: Each shellfish pot used in the
       commercial crab fishery must have a durable, nonbiodegradable tag securely attached to the
       pot that is permanently and legibly marked with the license owner's name or license number
       and telephone number. If the tag information is illegible, or the tag is lost for any reason, the
       pot is not in compliance with state law. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW
       77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.
   (3) Commercial crab fishery buoy tag requirements.
       (a) The department issues crab pot buoy tags to the owner of each commercial crab
           fishery license upon payment of an annual buoy tag fee per crab pot buoy tag. Prior to setting
           gear, each Puget Sound crab license holder must purchase 100 tags, and each coastal crab
           fisher must purchase 300 or 500 tags, depending on the crab pot limit assigned to the license.
           (b) In coastal waters each crab pot must have the department-issued buoy tag securely
               attached to the first buoy on the crab pot buoy line (the buoy closest to the crab pot), and the
               buoy tag must be attached to the end of the first buoy, at the end away from the crab pot buoy
               line.
           (c) In Puget Sound, all crab buoys must have the department-issued buoy tag attached
to the outermost end of the buoy line.

(d) If there is more than one buoy attached to a pot, only one buoy tag is required.

(e) Replacement crab buoy tags.

(i) Puget Sound: The department only issues additional tags to replace lost tags to owners of Puget Sound commercial crab fishery licenses who obtain, complete, and sign a declaration, under penalty of perjury, in the presence of an authorized department employee. The declaration must state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss.

(ii) Coastal: The department only issues replacement buoy tags for the coastal crab fishery beginning March 1 and after a signed affidavit is received by an authorized department employee. The affidavit must be signed by the primary or alternate operator fishing the commercial crab gear and state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss.

(A) Coastal crab license holders with a 300-pot limit may replace lost tags according to the following schedule:

(I) Period 1, up to 10 tags.

(II) Period 2, 5 additional tags with no more than 15 tags total issued through the end of Period 2.

(B) Coastal crab license holders with a 500-pot limit may replace lost tags according to the following schedule:

(I) Period 1, up to 15 tags.

(II) Period 2, 10 additional tags with no more than 25 tags total issued through the end of Period 2.

(C) Replacement tag periods are defined as follows:

(I) Period 1: March 1 through April 30.

(II) Period 2: May 1 through June 30. No replacement tags will be issued for the current season after July 1.

(D) In the case of extraordinary loss of crab pot gear, the department may issue replacement tags in excess of the amount listed in this subsection on a case-by-case basis.

(4) A violation of subsection (3) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(5) Commercial crab fishery buoy requirements.

(a) All buoys attached to commercial crab gear must consist of a durable material and remain floating on the water's surface when 5 pounds of weight is attached.

(b) No buoys attached to commercial crab gear in Puget Sound may be both red and white in color unless a minimum of 30 percent of the surface of each buoy is also prominently marked with an additional color or colors other than red or white. Red and white colors are reserved for personal use crab gear as described in WAC 220-330-020.

(c) It is unlawful for any coastal Dungeness crab fishery license holder to fish for crab unless the license holder has registered the buoy brand and buoy color(s) to be used with the license. A license holder may register only one unique buoy brand and one buoy color scheme with the department per license. Persons holding more than one state license must register buoy color(s) for each license that are distinctly different. The buoy color(s) will be shown in a color photograph.

(i) All buoys fished under a single license must be marked in a uniform manner with one buoy brand number registered by the license holder with the department and be of identical
color or color combinations.

(ii) It is unlawful for a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license holder to fish for crab using any other buoy brand or color(s) than those registered with and assigned to the license by the department.

(6) Violation of subsection (5) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

WAC 220-340-435
Commercial crab fishery—Shellfish pot requirements.

(1) Commercial gear limited to pots and ring nets. It is unlawful to take or fish for crab for commercial purposes except with shellfish pots and ring nets.

(2) Commercial gear escape rings and ports defined. It is unlawful to use or operate any shellfish pot gear in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery unless the gear meets the following requirements:
   (a) Pot gear must have 2 or more escape rings or ports;
   (b) Escape rings or ports must be 4-1/4 inches inside diameter or larger; and
   (c) Escape rings or ports must be located in the upper half of the trap.

(3) Maximum size for commercial crab pots. It is unlawful to use a crab pot greater than 13 cubic feet in volume to fish for or take Dungeness crab from state or offshore waters for commercial purposes.

(4) Groundline gear is unlawful. It is unlawful to attach or connect a crab pot or ring net to another crab pot or ring net by a common groundline or any other means that connects crab pots together.

(5) Penalty. Violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty, or RCW 77.15.522, Unlawful use of shellfish gear for commercial purposes—Penalty, whichever is applicable depending on the circumstances of the violation.

WAC 220-340-440
Commercial crab gear—Possession of another's gear and tag tampering.

(1) Possession of gear bearing another's crab pot tag or crab buoy tag. It is unlawful for any person to possess, use, control, or operate any crab pot bearing a tag identifying the pot as belonging to another person, or any buoy not bearing tags issued by the department to the person possessing them, except:
   (a) An alternate operator designated on a primary license may possess and operate crab buoys and crab pots bearing the tags of the license holder.
   (b) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear recovery permit issued by the department may possess crab pots or buoys bearing the tags of another license holder, provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit.
   (c) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear transport permit issued by the department may possess crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state, provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit.

(2) Violation of subsection (1) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.520, 77.15.522, 77.15.750, or 77.70.500, depending on the circumstances of the violation.
(3) **Pot tag or buoy tag tampering.** It is unlawful for any person to remove, damage, or otherwise tamper with crab buoy or pot tags not issued to that person, except: A person may possess the buoy tags or pot tags of another when the person is operating under a valid coastal gear recovery permit or emergency gear recovery permit issued by the department, and adheres to the permit’s provisions.

(4) Violation of subsection (3) of this section is a gross misdemeanor punishable under RCW **77.15.180** Unlawful interference with fishing or hunting gear—Penalty.

**WAC 220-340-455**

**Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Puget Sound.**

The open times and areas for commercial crab fishing in Puget Sound are as follows:

(1) All Puget Sound Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas are open for commercial crab fishing beginning 8:00 a.m. October 1st through the following April 15th from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except as provided below.

(2) For purposes of crab harvest allocation, fishing season, and catch reporting, the Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas (Catch Areas) are modified as follows:

   (a) Catch Area 26A-E includes those waters of Puget Sound south of a line from Sandy Point (on Whidbey Island) to Camano Head and from Camano Head to the north tip of Gedney Island, and from the southern tip of Gedney Island east to the mainland, and north and east of a line that extends from Possession Point to the shipwreck located 0.8 nautical miles north of Picnic Point.

   (b) Catch Area 26A-W includes those waters of Puget Sound south and east of a line from Foulweather Bluff to Double Bluff, and northerly of a line from Apple Cove Point to Point Edwards, and south and west of a line that extends from Possession Point to the shipwreck located 0.8 nautical miles north of Picnic Point.

(3) The following areas are closed to commercial crab fishing except for treaty Indian commercial crab fishing where the treaty Indian crab fisher is following tribal openings that are in accordance with provisions of court orders in United States v. Washington:


   (b) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A in Lummi Bay east of a line projected from the entrance buoy at Sandy Point to Gooseberry Point.

   (c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 21A in Bellingham Bay west of a line projected from the exposed boulder at Point Francis to the pilings at Stevie's Point.

   (d) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24A east of a line projected north from the most westerly tip of Skagit Island and extending south to the most westerly tip of Hope Island, thence southeast to Seal Rocks, thence southeast to the green can buoy at the mouth of Swinomish Channel, thence easterly to the west side of Goat Island.

   (e) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24B inside a line projected from Priest Point to the five-meter tower between Gedney Island and Priest Point, thence northwesterly on a line between the five-meter tower and Barnum Point to the intersection with a line projected true west from Kayak Point, thence east to shore.
(f) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A west of a line from the new Dungeness Light to the abandoned dock at the Three Crabs Restaurant.

(g) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25D within a line projected from the Point Hudson Marina entrance to the northern tip of Indian Island, thence to Kala Point, and thence following the shoreline to the point of origin.

(4) The following areas are closed to commercial crab fishing during the periods indicated:

(a) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A between a line from the boat ramp at the western boundary of Birch Bay State Park to the western point of the entrance of the Birch Bay Marina and a line from the same boat ramp to Birch Point, are closed October 1 through October 31 and March 1 through April 15.

(b) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24C inshore of the 400 foot depth contour within an area bounded by parallel lines projected northeasterly from Sandy Point and the entrance to the marina at Langley are closed October 1 through October 15.

(c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A-W in Useless Bay north and east of a line from the south end of the Double Bluff State Park seawall (47°58.782'N, 122°30.840'W) projected 110 degrees true to the boulder on shore (47°57.690'N, 122°26.742'W) are closed from October 1 through October 15.

(d) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22B in Fidalgo Bay south of a line projected from the red number 4 entrance buoy at Cap Sante Marina to the northern end of the easternmost oil dock are closed October 1 through October 31, and March 1 through April 15, of each year.

(e) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Deer Harbor north of a line projected from Steep Point to Pole Pass are closed October 1 through October 31 and March 1 through April 15.

(f) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A-E east of a line that extends true north from the green No. 1 buoy at Possession Point to Possession Point and west of a line from the green No. 1 buoy at Possession Point northward along the 200-foot depth contour to the Glendale Dock, are closed October 1 through October 15.

(5) The following areas are closed to commercial crab fishing until further notice:

(a) Those waters of Area 25E south of a line from Contractors Point to Tukey Point.

(b) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24A within a line projected from Rocky Point northeast to the red number 2 buoy north of Ustalady Point, thence to Brown Point on the northeast corner of Ustalady Bay.

(c) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24D south of a line from the point at the southern end of Honeymoon Bay (48°03.047'N, 122°32.306'W) to the point just north of Beverly Beach.

(d) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 26A east of a line projected from the outermost tip of the ferry dock at Mukilteo to the green #3 buoy at the mouth of the Snohomish River, and west of a line projected from the #3 buoy southward to the oil boom pier on the shoreline.

(e) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 21B in Samish Bay south of a line from Point Williams to Fish Point in waters shallower than 60 feet
in depth.

(f) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Westcott and Garrison Bays east of a line projected due south from Point White to San Juan Island.

(g) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20A in Birch Bay east of a line projected from the boat ramp at the western boundary of Birch Bay State Park to the western point of the entrance to the Birch Bay Marina.

(h) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 21A inside of Chuckanut Bay east of a line projected north from Governor's Point to the east side of Chuckanut Island, thence to Chuckanut Rock, thence to the most southerly tip of Clark's Point.

(i) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Blind Bay south of a line projected due west from Point Hudson to its intersection with Shaw Island.

(j) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Fisherman Bay south of a line projected east-west through the red number 4 entrance buoy.

(k) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in Mud Bay south of a line projected through Crab and Fortress Islands intersecting Lopez Island at either end.

(l) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22B in Padilla Bay within a line projected easterly from the northern end of the eastern most oil dock at March Point to the red number 2 buoy, thence southeasterly to the red number 8 buoy, thence west to shore and following the shoreline to the point of origin.

(m) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 24A in Cornet Bay south of a line projected true east and west from the northernmost tip of Ben Ure Island.

(n) That portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 20B, which includes all waters of Prevost Harbor between Stuart Island and Satellite Island southwest of a line from Charles Point on Stuart Island to the northwest tip of Satellite Island and southwest of a line projected 120 degrees true from the southeast end of Satellite Island to Stuart Island.

(o) Those waters of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 22A in East Sound north of a line from the southern point of Judd Bay on the west to Giffin Rocks on the east.

WAC 220-340-470

Commercial crab fishery—Gear limits—Puget Sound and Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas.

(1) Puget Sound licensing district commercial shellfish gear limit. It is unlawful for any person to take or fish for crab for commercial purposes in the Puget Sound licensing district if he or she is using, operating, or controlling any more than an aggregate total of 100 shellfish pots or ring nets. This limit applies to each license. This subsection does not preclude a person who holds two Puget Sound crab licenses from designating and using the licenses from one vessel as authorized by RCW 77.65.130. Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.
(2) **Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas gear limits.** It is unlawful for any person to use, maintain, operate, or control crab pots or ring nets in excess of the limits prescribed in each of the following Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas.

(a) 10 pots in Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25E;
(b) 10 pots in all water of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A south of a line projected true west from Travis Spit on Miller Peninsula;
(c) 20 pots in that portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 25A west of a line projected from the new Dungeness Light to the mouth of Cooper Creek, and east of a line projected from the new Dungeness Light to the outermost end of the abandoned dock at the Three Crabs Restaurant on the southern shore of Dungeness Bay; and
(d) 10 pots in that portion of Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area 23D west of a line from the eastern tip of Ediz Hook to the I77 Roynier [Rayonier] Dock.

(3) Violation of subsection (2) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

**WAC 220-352-010**

Fish receiving ticket definitions.

The following definitions apply to this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Program - Commercial Harvest Data Team, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091.
(2) "Fish" means food fish classified under WAC 220-300-370, game fish classified under WAC 220-300-380, and any other fish species subject to catch or harvest reporting requirements under state or federal law.
(3) "Fish broker" means a person who facilitates the sale or purchase of raw or frozen fish or shellfish on a fee or commission basis, without assuming title to the fish or shellfish and is required to have a fish dealer license.

A broker is not required to have a fish dealer license if the fish or shellfish only transit the state of Washington, and no storage, handling, processing, or repackaging occurs within the state.

(4) "Fish buyer," "buyer," or "wholesale fish buyer" means a person who:
(a) Takes first possession or ownership of fish or shellfish directly from a commercial fisher that is landed into the state of Washington; or
(b) Takes first possession or ownership of raw or frozen fish or shellfish in the state of Washington from interstate or foreign commerce; or
(c) Engages in the wholesale buying or selling of fish or shellfish harvested by fishers exercising treaty rights; or
(d) Acts as an agent for a wholesale fish buyer, to include purchasing or receiving fish or shellfish on a contractual basis.

(5) "Fish receiving ticket" is an official department document, available in paper or electronic form, for recording the delivery of commercial fish and shellfish and related transactions identified in WAC 220-352-020.
(6) "Fisher" means a person engaged in commercial fishing activities.
(7) "Fresh" or "raw" means unprocessed and unfrozen, regardless of whether the fish or shellfish are in the round, cleaned, or packaged for retail sale.
(8) "Frozen" means completely frozen throughout. Flash frozen and surface glaze frozen fish and shellfish are unfrozen fish and shellfish.

(9) "Groundfish" refers to the flatfish, rockfish, and roundfish species managed under the Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan and equivalent management plans in British Columbia and Alaska. The term is largely synonymous with the definition of "bottomfish" at WAC 220-300-040 but identifies a more limited subset of species.

(10) For deliveries made from the groundfish fisheries operating under 50 C.F.R., Part 660, the terms "to land", "landing", and "landed" are equivalent to the term "to deliver" as defined under RCW 77.15.630 (4)(b).

(11) "Nontreaty" means all entities not qualified by definition as "treaty."

(12) Except as provided, "original receiver" or "receiver" means a person who holds a wholesale fish buyer endorsement or a limited fish seller endorsement. Except as provided, an original receiver means the first person in possession of fish or shellfish in the state of Washington who is acting in the capacity of a buyer:

(a) A fisher who is not the holder of a limited fish seller endorsement and who sells fish or shellfish to anyone other than a wholesale fish buyer, or a fisher who delivers fish or shellfish and places the fish or shellfish into interstate or foreign commerce, is the original receiver of the fish or shellfish;

(b) A cold storage facility that holds fish or shellfish for a fisher is not an original receiver, provided that the facility does not process, package, or otherwise handle the fish or shellfish;

(c) A person transporting fish or shellfish on behalf of a fisher, and who is in possession of an accurately completed commercial food fish and shellfish transportation ticket, is not an original receiver, provided that the fish or shellfish are transported only to a cold storage facility or to a wholesale fish buyer.

(13) "Processed" means preparing and preserving and requires a fish buyer's license. Preserving includes treating with heat, including smoking and kippering. Cooked crab is processed. Preserving also includes freezing fish and shellfish.

(14) "Shellfish" means shellfish classified under WAC 220-320-010 and any other marine invertebrate species subject to catch or harvest reporting requirements under state or federal law.

(15) "Treaty" and "treaty Indian," for purposes of fish receiving tickets only, means persons who are members of federally recognized Indian tribes who harvest fish or shellfish in Washington pursuant to an Indian treaty, whether such harvest is on or off reservation.

(16) "Working day" means Monday through Friday, exclusive of a Washington state or federal holiday.

**WAC 220-352-020**

**When state of Washington fish receiving tickets are required.**

1. Wholesale fish buyers must complete a state of Washington fish receiving ticket for:

   (a) All fish and shellfish delivered in the state of Washington. This includes fish or shellfish transported into Washington from another state, territory, or country as well as fish or shellfish landed or harvested in Washington and delivered into interstate or foreign commerce. Additionally, any other fish or shellfish landed by the fisher and not delivered to the buyer, such
as weigh-back, zero-value product, or take-home, must also be recorded on a fish receiving ticket.

(b) Raw fish and shellfish that are transported into the state of Washington after being previously delivered in another state, territory, or country must be recorded using an import ticket.

(c) Purchase of fish or shellfish from a fisher who is also a dealer, if the fisher/dealer has not previously completed a fish receiving ticket or has not provided a copy of the fish receiving ticket or ticket number as proof.

(2) State of Washington fish receiving tickets are required for retail sales offered under a limited fish seller endorsement (WAC 220-352-250).

(3) A fish broker must comply with subsection (1) of this section unless receiving raw or frozen fish or shellfish that:

(a) Never enter into the state;
(b) Are in transit through the state of Washington and no storage, handling, processing, or repackaging occurs within the state; or
(c) Have been previously documented on a state of Washington fish receiving ticket.

(4) If a fisher wishes to donate fish or shellfish to a nonprofit or other organization but does not possess a valid wholesale fish buyer or a limited fish seller endorsement, they must deliver to an original receiver who must report the fish or shellfish on a fish receiving ticket.

(5) Fishers must ensure that a fish receiving ticket is completed for any forage fish that are:

(a) Transferred at sea to another vessel.
(b) Caught for use as bait by the catching vessel and not transferred to another vessel or an original receiver.

(6) Fish receiving tickets are not required for the following transactions:

(a) Fish or shellfish purchased from holders of a wholesale fish buyer or limited fish seller endorsement provided that the receiver or buyer complies with the recordkeeping requirements under RCW 77.15.568 and retains this information with the fish or shellfish.
(b) Fish or shellfish purchased at retail.
(c) Fresh or frozen fish or shellfish that are in transit through the state of Washington, if no storage, handling, processing, or repackaging occurs within the state.
(d) Private sector cultured aquatic products.
(e) Processed fish or shellfish except frozen fish or shellfish not previously delivered in another state, territory or country.
(f) Any importation of fish that are not classified food fish under WAC 220-300-370 or importation of shellfish that are not classified shellfish under WAC 220-370-010.

WAC 220-352-130

Completion, submission, distribution, and retention of copies of shellfish receiving ticket.

(1) State of Washington shellfish receiving tickets paper forms must be made out in quintuplicate (five copies) at the time of delivery of shellfish. Original receivers must use fish receiving tickets in numerical sequence, starting with the lowest numbered ticket issued to the original receiver. The original receiver must:

(a)(i) Mail the state copies (green and pink) to the department of fish and wildlife
(department) for any shellfish, other than geoduck clams from department of natural resources (DNR) geoduck tracts. The department must receive the state copies no later than the sixth working day after the day the original receiver completes the ticket.

(ii) Mail one state copy (green) to the department for any geoduck clams from DNR tracts. The department must receive its copy no later than the sixth working day after the day the original receiver completes the ticket. The original receiver must give the other state copy (pink) to DNR at the time of weigh-out, unless otherwise directed by DNR.

(b) Retain the dealer copies (white and yellow) for his or her records for three years.
(c) Provide the fisher his or her copy (gold) for his or her records.
(2) Original receivers who submit fish receiving tickets using an electronic form must:
   (a) Submit and retain the fish ticket in compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the electronic fish receiving ticket reporting agreement under WAC 220-352-035(3).
   (b) Print and retain a copy of the completed electronic fish receiving ticket for three years unless an alternative fish ticket retention requirement is specified in an electronic fish receiving ticket agreement.

WAC 220-352-140

Signatures—Fish receiving tickets.

(1) The fisher and original receiver of both treaty and nontreaty fish or shellfish must sign the appropriate completed fish receiving ticket paper form to certify that all entries on the ticket are accurate and correct.

(2) If an agent of the fisher delivers fish or shellfish to the original receiver, the receiver and the agent must complete and sign the fish receiving ticket together with the transportation ticket. The receiver and fisher shall assume complete responsibility for the correctness of all entries on the fish receiving ticket.

(3) Any employee of a licensed wholesale fish buyer who is authorized to receive or purchase fish or shellfish for that buyer on the premises of the primary business address or any of its plant locations as declared on the license application or agreement described under WAC 220-352-035(3), is authorized to initiate and sign fish receiving tickets on behalf of his or her employer. The business, firm, or licensed wholesale fish buyer that the receivers are operating under is responsible for the accuracy and legibility of all documents initiated in their name by any employee or agent.

(4) If an original receiver submits an electronic fish receiving ticket form, the fisher and original receiver must sign the printed completed fish receiving ticket form to certify that all entries on the ticket are accurate and correct, unless otherwise specified in an electronic fish receiving ticket reporting agreement (WAC 220-352-035(3)).

(5) If the receiver must complete an electronic fish receiving ticket form away from the place of delivery and it is impractical for the fisher to comply with subsection (4) of this section, the deliverer and receiver must sign the completed transportation ticket required by WAC 220-352-230 and attach it to the printed and signed copy of the completed electronic fish receiving ticket form, unless otherwise specified in an electronic fish receiving ticket reporting agreement (WAC 220-352-035(3)).

WAC 220-352-160
Fish receiving ticket accountability—Paper forms.

(1) When reporting using fish receiving ticket paper forms under WAC 220-352-035, receivers must:
   (a) Use only current state of Washington fish receiving tickets;
   (b) Get written permission from the department to transfer fish receiving tickets, except if the receiver is a wholesale fish buyer transferring to another licensed wholesale fish buyer or limited fish seller;
   (c) Notify the department in writing if terminating their business and to fail to return all unused fish receiving tickets and ticket books to the department within thirty days after termination of business;
   (d) Return the state copy of all fish receiving tickets to the state. All fish receiving tickets that are incorrectly made out, voided, or otherwise unused, must be submitted to the department accompanying, and in sequence with, other fish receiving tickets; and
   (e) Account for all lost, destroyed, or otherwise missing fish receiving tickets in writing to the department.

(2) Any person who is not a licensed wholesale fish buyer or holder of a limited fish seller endorsement shall not have blank fish receiving ticket paper forms in his or her possession.

WAC 220-352-210

License cards.

Upon lawful application, a commercial fishery license in the form of a license card will be issued by the department. The license card will be designed for use with an approved mechanical imprinting device. The license card will contain the licensee’s name; license type and gear code; license year; license number. Upon designating a vessel the license card will additionally contain the vessel name for documented vessels; the state registration number for undocumented vessels if state registration is required; the department vessel registration number for vessels for which neither documentation nor state registration is required; the primary operator and date of birth; up to two alternate operators and date of birth for each.

WAC 220-352-220

Wholesale fish buyer plates.

(1) Upon lawful application for a wholesale fish buyer's endorsement, a wholesale fish buyer’s plate will be issued by the department for any receiver acting as or intending to act as an original receiver. The receiver’s plate will be designed for use with an approved mechanical imprinting device and shall contain the wholesale fish buyer’s name, wholesale fish buyer’s endorsement number, year for which the endorsement is valid, and department wholesale fish buyer number.

(2) Upon lawful application for a wholesale fish buyer's license or a branch plant license, a wholesale fish buyer's plate will be issued by the department for any wholesale fish buyer acting or intending to act on the behalf of an original receiver. The wholesale fish buyer's plate will be designed for use with an approved mechanical imprinting device and shall contain the wholesale fish buyer's name, wholesale fish buyer's endorsement number, year for which the
endorsement is valid, department wholesale fish buyer number, buyer name, and department buyer number.

**WAC 220-352-230**

**Commercial fish and shellfish transportation ticket.**

(1) If fish or shellfish are transported from a vessel or catch site (if the fishery does not require a vessel) prior to completing a fish receiving ticket, the fisher must complete a commercial fish and shellfish transportation ticket as required by this section. The transportation ticket must accompany the fish or shellfish until the fish receiving ticket is completed. The purpose of this rule is to ensure catch accountability when fish or shellfish are transported by the fisher or his or her designee before a fish receiving ticket is required to be completed. Fish receiving ticket requirements under this chapter are still in effect.

(2) The fisher must complete the department provided transportation ticket with the following information:

(a) The name of the fisher who caught the fish.
(b) The fisher’s vessel registration number.
(c) The signature of the fisher or additional operator.
(d) The name of the transporter.
(e) The catch area where the fish or shellfish were caught.
(f) The species of fish or shellfish being transported.
(g) The individual number or approximate pounds of fish or shellfish being transported, as required under WAC **220-352-040**.

(3) In cases where the fisher does not deliver the fish or shellfish to an original receiver within twenty-four hours after offloading, the fisher must send a copy of the completed transportation ticket to the department. The completed ticket must arrive within the sixth working day. Once the fisher delivers the fish or shellfish to the original receiver, a copy of the transportation ticket must be attached or the ticket number must be written on the fish receiving ticket.

(4) In cases where an agent of the fisher delivers fish or shellfish with a transportation ticket to the original receiver, the original receiver must mail the transportation ticket, together with the state copy of the fish receiving ticket as required in WAC **220-352-060, 220-352-090, 220-352-130**. If the commercial fisher delivers and signs the fish receiving ticket, only the fish receiving ticket must be mailed in, and the transportation ticket is not required to be submitted with it.

Transportation tickets completed for deliveries reported using electronic fish receiving ticket forms should be attached to the printed and signed copy of the form, as required by WAC **220-352-140(5)**.

(5) Any person transporting commercially taken fish or shellfish or commercial quantities of fish or shellfish must provide a transportation ticket for inspection upon demand by a fish and wildlife officer.

(6) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(a) Fish and shellfish purchased at retail, provided the purchaser has, in his or her possession, a sales receipt documenting the purchase;
(b) Fish or shellfish for which a fish receiving ticket has been completed and a copy of the fish receiving ticket is in the possession of the person transporting;
(c) Fish or shellfish being transported by the department;
(d) Hatchery carcass sales;
(e) Private sector cultured aquatic products in transport;
(f) Fish or shellfish being transported on a completed Oregon transportation ticket, provided that the fish were caught in the concurrent waters of the Columbia River and were landed on Washington's shore; and
(g) Fish or shellfish being transported in the catching vessel, provided that the vessel is not being transported or towed over land.

WAC 220-352-250

Sale under a limited fish seller endorsement.

Any holder of a limited fish seller endorsement selling fish or shellfish taken by that fisher under the endorsement, must comply with the requirements of this section.

(1)(a) Before offering any fish or shellfish for retail sale under a limited fish seller endorsement, the fisher must complete a fish receiving ticket for all fish or shellfish aboard the harvesting vessel upon landing, unless meeting the exception under (b) of this subsection.

(b) If the fisher offers fish or shellfish for sale directly off the catcher vessel, the fisher may complete the ticket with an estimated number or weight. At the completion of the retail activity, the fisher must enter the actual number, weight, and sale price of the fish or shellfish that were sold at retail.

(2) In order to allow inspection and sampling, each fisher offering fish or shellfish for retail sale at any location other than the harvesting vessel or, if from the harvesting vessel, in an amount having a retail value greater than one hundred fifty dollars must notify the department eighteen hours prior to sale and identify the location of the fisher's vessel, temporary food service establishment or restaurant or other business which prepares and sells food at retail to which the fisher is selling the fish or shellfish. The only acceptable notification is by telephone to 360-902-2936, fax to 360-902-2155, or email to enforcement-web@dfw.wa.gov.

(3) Each fisher offering fish or shellfish for retail sale must maintain a sequentially numbered receipt book, which receipt book contains a receipt duplicate copy, and must give each purchaser of fish or shellfish a receipt showing the number, weight and purchase price of the fish or shellfish sold to that purchaser. The seller must retain the duplicate receipts for one year.

(4) If fish or shellfish offered for retail sale and documented on a fish receiving ticket are subsequently sold to a licensed wholesale fish buyer, the sale must be documented by a sale receipt, not a fish receiving ticket.

WAC 220-352-340

Puget Sound crab—Additional reporting requirements.

(1) Any person originally receiving or purchasing Dungeness crab taken from Puget Sound by nontreaty fishers must report to the department the previous day's purchases by 10:00 a.m. the following day.

(a) Reports must be sent to the Mill Creek Regional Office by fax to 425-338-1066, or by email to crabreport@dfw.wa.gov.

(b) Reports must include, for each fish receiving ticket submitted:
(i) The name of the wholesale fish buyer or limited fish seller;
(ii) The phone number of the wholesale fish buyer or limited fish seller;
(iii) The date of delivery of crab to the original receiver; and
(iv) The total number of pounds of crab delivered, by Crab Management Region or by Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Area.

(2) Alternative reporting requirements may be specified in an electronic fish receiving ticket agreement (WAC 220-352-035(3)).