



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations effective September 8, 2019:

It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 1,200 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period. See the list of catch accounting periods below.

Any crab taken prior to September 8, 2019, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. September 7, 2019, become part of the September 8 – September 15, 2019 accounting period catch.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- September 8 – September 15, 2019

JUSTIFICATION:

The Summer Fishery Management Plan (Plan) calls for the implementation of management measures intended to protect the Dungeness crab resource when significant amounts of soft-shelled crab are present during the commercial crab fishery.

Specifically, the Plan states: If any single shell condition test conducted during a ride-along trip indicates that less than 50% of the male crabs sampled are hard-shelled (grades 1A and/or 1B OR, if any three shell condition tests conducted during random dockside sampling within a two week period as described in Appendix B indicates that less than 75% of the crab sampled are hard-shelled (grades 1A and 1B), WDFW will impose a 1,200 pound weekly landing limit.

This week's crab condition data has met the above criteria, triggering a reduced weekly landing limit. This reduced weekly trip limit will remain in place through the end of the season.