



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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December 18, 2020

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Continued Season Opening Delay in Washington and Oregon (North of Cape Falcon)

Today, coastal Dungeness crab Tri-State policy representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) agreed to further delay the opening of the 2020-21 coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery from Cape Falcon, Oregon (45° 46'.00 N. Lat.) north to the US/Canada border through at least January 14, 2021.

This decision was based on domoic acid tests of Dungeness crab collected by WDFW and analyzed by the Washington Department of Health (WDOH) which shows that crab tested off Long Beach have viscera that continues to be above the federal domoic acid action level of 30 parts per million (ppm). A delay will allow WDFW to continue conduct more testing to see if domoic acid levels drop prior to announcing the opening of the commercial crab fishery.

WDFW follows a biotoxin monitoring plan overseen by Washington Department of Health (WDOH). The monitoring plan requires two samples, seven to ten days apart where domoic acid is below 30 ppm and domoic acid levels trending downwards to proceed without requiring evisceration. WDFW will continue to sample as ocean conditions allow.

WDFW is also working closely with WDOH, Washington Department of Agriculture and ODFW to discuss the requirements and enforceability of an opening under a mandatory evisceration requirement should that action be necessary.

The latest Washington coastal Dungeness crab domoic acid results are found in the attached table. The full list of results can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters-notices#general-info>. The information on this web link will be updated as new information is received.

As a reminder, transiting through closed areas is prohibited by ODFW regulations which state that all vessels with crab onboard, caught south of Cape Falcon, Oregon, are subject to Oregon rules that do not allow transit north of Cape Falcon;

(1) It is unlawful to take, land or possess Dungeness crab for commercial purposes from the Pacific Ocean or Columbia River:

(a) In the area from Cape Falcon (45° 46' 00" N. Lat.) northward to the Oregon/Washington border (42° 15' 00" N. Lat.)

Fair start provisions are in place for areas that open before the delayed area opens:

Washington regulations (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) describe that licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters between Point

Arena, California and Cape Falcon, Oregon, before the area North of Cape Falcon opens will be subject to a 30-day fair start after the area to the north opens.

License owners and operators that chose to participate before the area north of Cape Falcon opens should also reference the fair state regulations in place in other states. For example, while WDFW and ODFW ([Commercial Regulations Synopsis](#)) regulations describe the Tri-State management area where fair start regulations apply as the area between Point Arena, California and the U.S Canada border, California regulations state that any vessel that participates in California, including areas south of Point Arena such as District 10, will be subject to Fair Start provisions. CDFW has developed a Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQ](#)) document that may be useful when making decisions about the 2020-2021 coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

WDFW is coordinating closely with the Quinault Indian Nation regarding season opening provisions for the area north of Klipsan Beach, Washington. We will provide more information and details on the season opening in that area as soon as possible.



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WA Dungeness Crab Domoic Acid December Test Results

Collect Date	Waterbody	SiteName	Crab Species	Tissue	Domoic Result
12/1/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Inside Willapa Bay	Dungeness	Gut	2
12/1/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Inside Willapa Bay	Dungeness	Gut	1
12/1/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Inside Willapa Bay	Dungeness	Gut	1
12/1/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Inside Willapa Bay	Dungeness	Gut	1
12/1/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Inside Willapa Bay	Dungeness	Gut	5
12/1/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Inside Willapa Bay	Dungeness	Gut	5
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 20 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	7
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 20 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	15
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 20 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	19
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 20 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	11
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 20 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	21
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 20 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	14
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 10 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	27
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 10 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	28
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 10 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	27
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 10 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	6
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 10 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	23
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Pt. Chehalis to D.I. 10 fms (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	24
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Inside Grays Harbor (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	15
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Inside Grays Harbor (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	8
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Inside Grays Harbor (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	41
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Inside Grays Harbor (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	25
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Inside Grays Harbor (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	44
12/2/2020	Grays Harbor Coast	Inside Grays Harbor (QIN)	Dungeness	Gut	29
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	16
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	6
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	1
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	4
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	15
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	9
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	4
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	7

12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	14
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	17
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	23
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (SEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	4
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	2
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	7
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	15
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	27
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	8
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	27
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	9
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	1
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	30
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	34
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	36
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (PEA 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	34
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	7
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	5
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	10
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	5
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	4
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 15 f)	Dungeness	Gut	15
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	11
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	15
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	14
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	11
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	1
12/5/2020	Pacific Cnty Coast	Cape Disappoint./Pt Brown (CRB 7 f)	Dungeness	Gut	15

OR = Northern Oregon

LBP = Long Beach Peninsula

CRA = Columbia River Area

PEA = Peacock Spit (off LB)

GA = Grayland Area

PB = Pacific Beach

COP = Copalis Area

SEA = Seaview (off LB)

59A-1 = catch area

QIN = collected by Quinault

D.I. = Destruction Island

CRB = Cranberry (off LB)

WDOH REOPENING CRITERIA: Reopening a zone that has been closed due to toxic test results, will require two (2) consecutive crab sample sets, not less than seven (7) days apart, with all six crab in each set, testing below 30 ppm in the viscera, or 20 ppm in meat.