



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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December 23, 2021

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with final details relative to the opening of the 2021-22 coastal Dungeness crab fishery **north of Klipsan Beach**. We are also announcing the delay of the planned implementation of the mandatory use of electronic fish receiving tickets until further notice.

WDFW and Quinalt managers reviewed catch data from the first 31 days of the Quinalt fishery yesterday. Per the terms of our co-management agreement, Quinalt fishers will get a 47-day head start in the area from Point Chehalis north to Destruction Island, which results in a state season opening in the area north of Klipsan Beach on January 11, 2022.

WDFW's co-management agreement with the Quileute Tribe, uses different criteria to open the state fishery between the Queets River and Destruction Island and for the area north of Destruction Island. The agreement uses a sliding scale approach based on Quileute catch in the entire Quileute U&A for the area between Queets and Destruction Island. Given the low early season catch for Quileute, this area will open on January 11, 2022, concurrent with the opening north of Klipsan Beach.

With regard to the opening north of Destruction Island, WDFW's co-management agreement with Quileute includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15th, prior to opening the state fishery north of Destruction Island. We will release additional information on the opening of this area at a later time.

In summary, the entire area from Klipsan Beach to Destruction Island (excluding Special Management Areas) will open to state fishers on January 11, 2022. See details below.

The decision to move mandatory use of the electronic fish receiving ticket system has been delayed to allow for final testing and refinement of the mobile application. Fish dealers who are currently using the web-based version of electronic fish tickets are encouraged to continue to do so (more information will be provided to licensed dealers and buyers).

STATE SEASON OPENING NORTH OF KLIPSAN BEACH:

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and Destruction Island (47°40.50) will open at 9:00 am, January 11, 2022.**
- A **73-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am January 8, 2022.
- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on January 10, 2022.

- Temporary pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach will be removed at 8:00 am January 11, 2022.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the management measures described below before you begin your fishing operations and stay informed relative to additional changes.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:

Quinault SMA:

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 8, 2022. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until further notice.

The Quinault **primary SMA** is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. – 124°20.70' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. – 124°34.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°11.20' W. Lon.

FAIR START PROVISIONS:

Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 11, 2022, are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

Fair Start Provisions:

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on January 21, 2022**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to Destruction Island (47°40.50):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and Destruction Island at **8:00 am on February 15, 2022.**
- **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.

Other Requirements:

- Whale entanglements are a serious problem, please implement the recommendations in the Washington Best Practices Guidelines to minimize the risk of entangling marine mammals.
- Since 2018, all crew members must have a WDFW *Annual Commercial Crew License*. This can be done by an individual crewman and is transferable between boats and fisheries. Or, up to two *Undesignated Annual Commercial Crew Licenses* can be purchased by a commercial fishing license holder that will be specific to the vessel. Details can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/commercial/miscellaneous#> or by calling 360-902-2464 (option#4).
- All commercial crab license holders are required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information is necessary for managing our fishery today and in the future. New logbooks will be available during Hold Inspections or by calling WDFW at 360-249-4628.
- Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling Sgt. Brian Alexander, 360-580-6200, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situations will require notification.
 - a. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
 - b. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.
- A **Washington Gear Transfer Permit** issued by WDFW is required to transport through Washington State waters, crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state. Contact Captain Dan Chadwick at Sgt. Brian Alexander, 360-580-6200 for issuance of this permit.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until February 15, 2022
- WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 263) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 470-3557.