



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689

WASHINGTON COASTAL CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Information for the Area North of Destruction Island

Contact: Dan Ayres at (360) 249-1209
January 7, 2022

The harvest management plan with the Quileute Tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15 prior to opening the state fishery in the area north of Destruction Island. Weather data and recent ocean forecasts have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers through January 8 and we agree that the 20 fishable day criteria has been achieved, as a result;

The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab season between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border will open at 9:00 a.m. January 15, 2022.

- A **73-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2022.
- Two Special Management Areas (SMAs) will be in place between Destruction Island and the US/Canada Border beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2022.

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 US Canada Border:** 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 the US/Canada border at **8:00 am on February 15, 2022.**

North of Destruction Island, there are two Special management Areas (SMA) that are closed to state fishers. Please see the details below.

Quileute SMA:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2022. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m., May 1, 2022. There will be a 100-pot limit in the Quileute SMA from May 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°40.40' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°49.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°24.43 W. Lon.

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2022 and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 10, 2022. There will be a 200-pot limit in the SMA for the first 30-days following the opening of the SMA to state fishers. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15' N. to 48°19.50' N, east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner: 48°19.50' N. Lat. – 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. – 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. – 124°41.00' W. Lon.

As we previously communicated, the Quinault SMA.

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.

Other Requirements:

- All license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW.
 - This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through February 15, 2022.



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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.

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) 249-1209.