



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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March 22, 2023

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Since 2020, the WDFW has imposed a reduced pot limit starting May 1 for the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery. The intent of this requirement is to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial crab gear by reducing the number of lines in the water during the peak time when humpback whales are present off the Washington coast. This notice is a reminder that these reduced pot limits go into effect on May 1, 2023.

Effective May 1 through September 15

- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 500 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 330 pots.
- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 200 pots.

In conjunction with the reduced pot limit, license holders that plan to participate on or after May 1 must purchase summer buoy tags. Summer buoy tags will ensure compliance with the reduced pot limit and allow for the removal of lost or abandoned crab gear prior to the end of the season. This in-season gear recovery furthers measures to reduce the risk of entanglements with humpback whales. More information about in-season gear recovery will be provided in a future notice.

If you plan to fish on or after May 1 and choose to have your tags shipped to you, you must order your summer buoy tags by April 14, 2023. In order to provide you with enough time to get them on your gear by May 1, your tag orders must be received by licensing by the April 14 deadline to ensure orders can be processed and shipped out soon after tags are received by licensing. If you order your summer buoy tags after the April 14 deadline, shipping times are not guaranteed for you to receive them by May 1. Regardless of when you acquire your summer tags, they must be attached to any gear deployed on or after May 1.

The preferred method for receiving your buoys tags is shipping via FedEx, however in-person pickup will be available at the WDFW Licensing Office in Olympia, Monday-Friday from 8:30am - 4:45pm. If you choose to pick up your tags in-person in Olympia, please notify licensing 24 hours prior to pick up at commercialsales@dfw.wa.gov or 360-902-2464. If 24-hour prior notice is not provided, in-person pick up will not be allowed and tags will be shipped via FedEx once payment is received.

To order summer buoy tags, fill out the attached payment/order form and mail or email it along with your payment to the contact information provided on the form. Tags will not be shipped or available for in-person pick up until after April 17.



2023 SUMMER COASTAL CRAB BUOY TAG ORDER FORM

License Owner _____ License # _____

Vessel Name _____

Please ship my buoy tags to:

the address must be a physical address (**not a PO Box**)

Name: _____

Address: _____

300 pot limit – 200 tags at \$1.50 each\$300.00

500 pot limit – 330 tags at \$1.50 each\$495.00

Make checks payable to WDFW

Mail to: WDFW Commercial Licensing

PO Box 43154

Olympia WA 98504 **or**

Fax to: 360-902-2945 **or**

Email: commercialsales@dfw.wa.gov

Visa

MasterCard _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ expire _____ - _____

Name on card _____ Phone _____