

**WAC 220-340-420 Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts. (1)**

**Crab size and sex restrictions.** It is unlawful for any person acting for commercial purposes to take, possess, deliver, or otherwise control:

(a) Any female Dungeness crab; or

(b) Any male Dungeness crab measuring less than 6-1/4 inches, caliper measurement, at the widest part of the shell immediately in front of the points (tips).

(2) Violation of subsection (1) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony depending on the value of fish or shellfish taken, possessed, or delivered, punishable under RCW 77.15.550 (1)(c).

(3) **Incidental catch may not be retained.** It is unlawful to retain salmon, food fish, or any shellfish other than octopus that is taken incidental to any commercial crab fishing.

(4) **Net fishing boats must not have crab on board.** It is unlawful for any person to possess any crab on board a vessel geared or equipped with commercial net fishing gear while fishing with the net gear for commercial purposes or while commercial quantities of food fish or shellfish are on board. Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony punishable under RCW 77.15.550(1), depending on the quantity of crab taken or possessed.

(5) **Area must be open to commercial crabbing.** It is unlawful for any person to set, maintain, or operate any baited or unbaited shellfish pots for taking crab for commercial purposes in any area or time that is not open for commercial crabbing by rule of the department, except when acting lawfully under the authority of a valid gear recovery permit as provided in WAC 220-340-450.

(6) Violation of subsection (5) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony punishable under RCW 77.15.550, or a gross misdemeanor punishable under RCW 77.15.522 depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(7) **When it is unlawful to buy or land crab from the ocean without a crab vessel inspection.** It is unlawful for any fisher or wholesale fish buyer to land or purchase Dungeness crab taken from Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, the Columbia River, or Washington coastal or adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean from any vessel that has not been issued a Washington crab vessel inspection certificate during the first 30 days following the opening of a coastal crab season.

(a) Authorized department personnel will perform inspections for Washington crab vessel inspection certificates no earlier than 12 hours prior to the opening of the coastal crab season and during the following 30-day period.

(b) A Washington crab vessel inspection certificate may be issued to vessels made available for inspection at a Washington coastal port that:

(i) Are properly licensed commercial crab fishing; and

(ii) Contain no Dungeness crab on board the vessel.

(8) Violation of subsection (7) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.550 (1)(a) Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.

(9) **Barging of crab pots by undesignated vessels.** It is unlawful for a vessel not designated on a Dungeness crab coastal or Puget Sound

fishery license to deploy crab pot gear except under the following conditions:

(a) **Coastal**

(i) The vessel deploys pot gear only during the 73-hour period immediately preceding the season opening date and during the 48-hour period immediately following the season opening date;

(ii) The undesignated vessel carries no more than 250 crab pots at any one time; and

(iii) The primary or alternate operator of the crab pot gear named on the license associated with the gear is on board the undesignated vessel while the gear is being deployed.

(b) **Puget Sound**

(i) The vessel deploys pot gear only during the 48-hour period immediately following the initial season opening date and time;

(ii) The primary or alternate operator designated on the license associated with the barged gear is on board the nondesignated vessel ("barge" vessel) while the gear is being deployed; and

(iii) The Puget Sound commercial crab license holder who owns the gear intended for barging has provided notice to the department via email at [crab.report@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:crab.report@dfw.wa.gov) at least 24 hours in advance of the fishery opening date. Notice must include the following information:

(A) Name and license number(s) of the owner of the gear being barged;

(B) Name of the designated primary operator, if different from the licensed owner;

(C) Name of the alternate operator, if used to deploy pots from a nondesignated vessel;

(D) Buoy brand number and number of pots to be deployed from a nondesignated vessel;

(E) Name and identification numbers (WN and/or Coast Guard) of the nondesignated vessel;

(F) Puget Sound Crab Management Region or set location.

(10) Violation of subsection (9) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or class C felony punishable under RCW 77.15.500 Commercial fishing without a license—Penalty, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(11) **Storing crab prior to delivery to an original receiver, Puget Sound.** It is unlawful for a Puget Sound commercial crab license holder to store crab off-vessel prior to delivery to an original receiver, except under the following conditions:

(a) It is unlawful to store crab, off-vessel or on-vessel, for more than 10 days (~~(prior to)~~) without making a delivery to an original receiver.

(b) All crab that have been removed from a vessel and are not immediately delivered to an original receiver must be stored in containers labeled with the following:

(i) Fisher name;

(ii) WDFW-issued vessel ID number;

(iii) Puget Sound commercial crab license number;

(iv) Date of harvest;

~~((ii) An estimate of pounds of crab contained;~~

~~(iii) Either the)) (v) The quantity of pounds of crab retained by Crab Management Region or by Marine Fish-Shellfish (MFSF) Catch Reporting Area ((or the Crab Management Region from which the catch originated));~~

~~((iv))~~ (vi) Containers used for storing crab removed from a vessel and not delivered to an original receiver by 5:00 p.m. of the day following the day of harvest must additionally be labeled with the commercial fish and shellfish transportation ticket number(s).

(c) Storage of crab is subject to the reporting requirements described in WAC 220-352-340.

(12) **Electronic monitoring system (EM system)** is defined as a vessel monitoring system that automatically determines a vessel's position, records individual pot retrieval via a hydraulic pressure reading, and transmits this information to an EM system service provider. The service provider receives the transmission and provides automated data access to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in a format consistent with PSMFC specifications where it is available to WDFW for management and enforcement.

(a) The department has published a compliance guide for the EM system which provides additional information and instructions to follow in complying with this regulation and is incorporated by reference herein. The guide can be obtained by contacting the EM program manager: 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563; phone: 360-249-4628; email: coastal.crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov or wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal.

(b) It is unlawful for the operator of a vessel designated to a coastal Dungeness crab license that is used to commercial fish for coastal Dungeness crab as defined by WAC 220-340-400 to fail to:

(i) Obtain an EM system that is capable of recording and transmitting vessel location and hydraulic pressure readings and have it installed on board the vessel designated to the coastal Dungeness crab license. The operating requirements for the EM system are as follows:

(A) The EM system must accurately record the vessel's position at least once every minute.

(B) The EM system must transmit the vessel location data to the service provider at least once every hour.

(C) A hydraulic pressure sensor must be installed between the crab block and the first fitting from the crab block on the main line of a vessel that controls it such that recorded pressure readings are indicative of pot hauling activity.

(D) The hydraulic pressure sensor must accurately record a pressure reading at least once every 10 seconds.

(E) The EM system must transmit hydraulic pressure sensor readings at least once every hour.

(F) If the EM system can determine when a vessel is moored, the EM system may automatically decrease the position and hydraulic pressure recording rate to at least once every hour.

(G) The EM system must be able to store vessel position and hydraulic pressure data in the event of service coverage interruption. Once service is restored, the system must transmit stored data to the service provider.

(H) The EM system must include a feedback mechanism to indicate to the vessel operator that the system is operational.

(ii) Arrange for an EM system service provider to receive and relay transmissions to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in a format consistent with PSMFC specifications.

(A) The following data fields must be provided to the PSMFC whenever a new system is installed, or new data transmissions begin: Vessel coast guard number, state vessel registration number, state of registration, serial number or unique identifier linked to the EM system, EM service provider name, name of the make and model of the EM

system, date the system was installed or started transmitting data, date the system was removed or stopped transmitting data.

(B) The following data fields must be recorded by the EM system and relayed to the PSMFC every hour: Serial number or unique identifier linked to the EM system, date, time, latitude, longitude, pressure reading from sensor, speed, vessel name.

(iii) Activate the EM system, submit an EM system activation report to WDFW, and receive confirmation from WDFW that the location and pressure sensor transmissions are being received before the vessel is used to fish in the coastal commercial Dungeness fishery. Commercial crab fishing is defined in WAC 220-340-400. An activation report must be submitted to WDFW under the following circumstances:

(A) Annually before gear is deployed at the start of each coastal commercial Dungeness crab season.

(B) When an EM system is reactivated following a reinstallation.

(C) When there is a change in service provider.

(D) When any changes are made to the information required in the EM activation report.

(E) After operating under a temporary exemption permit as described in (b) (v) (A), (B), and (C) of this subsection.

(iv) Operate and maintain the EM system in good working order continuously, 24 hours a day when a vessel is fishing for coastal commercial crab, as defined in WAC 220-340-400, in the Washington coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery unless the vessel is operating under an exemption provided under (b) (v) (A), (B), (C), or (b) (vi) (A) or (B) of this subsection.

(v) Request and secure an EM exemption permit when there is an interruption in the EM system function and comply with the requirements of this subsection and the terms of the EM exemption permit. Vessels required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be temporarily exempt from this requirement if a valid WDFW EM exemption permit is received from WDFW. An exemption is only authorized for the period specified on the permit. The exemption permits are as follows:

(A) EM system failure exemption permit. Vessels required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be temporarily exempt from EM system requirements in situations due to an EM system failure, or hydraulic pressure sensor failure by obtaining an EM system failure exemption permit. In the event a system failure exemption permit is granted by WDFW, the operator of the vessel must submit a harvest logbook per WAC 220-340-460 and use electronic navigational equipment (including, but not limited to, chart plotters, hand-held global positioning systems, etc.) to record a track line of the vessel's movements while commercial crab fishing, and track line information must be made available to WDFW officers or authorized employees immediately upon request and retained for 30 days. Requests for multiple exemption permits for a single vessel within a season will be reviewed and approved at the discretion of WDFW.

(B) Haul out exemption permit. Vessels required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be temporarily exempted from EM requirements when it is anticipated that a vessel's EM system will be inoperable due to removing the vessel from the water for less than 14 days and coastal commercial Dungeness crab gear will remain lawfully deployed by obtaining a "Haul Out Exemption Permit" from WDFW.

(C) Emergency exemption permit: Vessels required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be exempt from

EM requirements in emergency situations rendering the vessel's EM system inoperable for less than 14 days including, but not limited to, fire, flooding, or extensive physical damage to critical areas of the vessel by obtaining an emergency exemption permit from WDFW.

(D) To request an exemption permit described in (b)(v) of this subsection, a vessel owner must contact WDFW. For an exemption permit to be valid, a request must be received by WDFW as soon as it is apparent that there is a system failure or emergency or at least 2 hours before a haul out exemption is needed. A vessel will be required to submit an activation report under (b)(iii) of this subsection before returning to fish.

(vi) Submit a long-term departure exemption report. A vessel that is required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be exempt from this requirement if a long-term departure exemption report is submitted to WDFW in compliance with all the conditions described in (b)(vi)(A), (B), or (C) of this subsection. The basis for a long-term departure exemption report are as follows:

(A) Suspension of fishing operations. Vessels required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be exempted from EM system requirements when the vessel has concluded fishing for coastal commercial Dungeness crab for the current season or has suspended fishing operations such that all commercial gear is removed from waters open to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery.

(B) Emergency. Vessels required to operate and maintain an EM system under (b) of this subsection may be exempted from EM system requirements in emergency situations rendering the vessel's EM system inoperable for more than 14 days including, but not limited to, fire, flooding, or extensive physical damage to critical areas of the vessel, and the vessel will not resume fishing for coastal commercial Dungeness crab for the remainder of the current season.

(C) Long-term departure reports must be received by WDFW no later than 24 hours after a vessel has concluded fishing for the season.

(vii) Contact WDFW immediately if transmission of position and pressure sensor readings have been interrupted and no more than 24 hours after being notified by WDFW that position and pressure sensor readings are not being received, by notifying the EM program manager, phone: 360-249-4628, or email [coastal.crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:coastal.crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov).

(viii) Make the EM system available for inspection by WDFW enforcement personnel, USCG personnel, or any authorized employee upon request.

(ix) Ensure that the EM system or signal is not interfered with, tampered with, disabled, or destroyed and is operated and maintained according to the EM system provider instructions.

(x) Pay all charges levied by the service provider as necessary to ensure continuous operation of the EM system.

(13) Violation of subsection (12) of this section is a gross misdemeanor punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

**WAC 220-340-430 Commercial crab fishery—Gear requirements. (1) Buoy tag and pot tag required.**

(a) It is unlawful to place in the water, pull from the water, possess on the water, or transport on the water any crab buoy or crab pot without an attached buoy tag and pot tag that meet the requirements of this section, except as provided by (b) and (c) of this subsection. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(b) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear recovery permit as provided in WAC 220-340-440 may possess crab pots or buoys missing tags or bearing the tags of another license holder, provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit. Failure to adhere to the provisions of the permit is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.750 Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.

(c) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear transport permit as provided in WAC 220-340-440 may possess crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state, provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit. Failure to adhere to the provisions of the permit is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.750 Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.

(2) **Commercial crab fishery pot tag requirements:** Each shellfish pot used in the commercial crab fishery must have a durable, nonbiodegradable tag securely attached to the pot that is permanently and legibly marked with the license owner's name or license number and telephone number. If the tag information is illegible, or the tag is lost for any reason, the pot is not in compliance with state law. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(3) **Commercial crab fishery buoy tag requirements.**

(a) The department issues crab pot buoy tags to the owner of each commercial crab fishery license upon payment of an annual buoy tag fee per crab pot buoy tag. Prior to setting gear, each Puget Sound crab license holder must purchase 100 tags, and each coastal crab fisher must purchase 300 or 500 tags, depending on the crab pot limit assigned to the license.

(b) In coastal waters, except if authorized by permit issued by the director, each crab pot must have the department-issued buoy tag securely attached to the first buoy on the crab pot buoy line (the buoy closest to the crab pot), and the buoy tag must be attached to the end of the first buoy, at the end away from the crab pot buoy line.

(c) In Puget Sound, except if authorized by permit issued by the director, all crab buoys must have the department-issued buoy tag attached to the outermost end of the buoy line.

(d) If there is more than one buoy attached to a pot, only one buoy tag is required.

(e) All remaining, undeployed buoy tags per license per region must be onboard the designated vessel and available for immediate inspection by the department, except under the following conditions: The holder or alternate operator of a Puget Sound crab license has declared, as permitted under (f) of this subsection, that deployed tags have been lost and are unrecoverable, under penalty of perjury, and

has been granted permission by the department to use undeployed buoy tags as a replacement.

(f) Replacement crab buoy tags.

(i) Puget Sound: ~~((The department only issues additional tags to replace lost tags to owners of Puget Sound commercial crab fishery licenses who obtain, complete, and sign a declaration, under penalty of perjury, in the presence of an authorized department employee. The declaration must state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss.))~~ Puget Sound commercial crab license holders are required to request permission to use undeployed buoy tags in the event deployed buoy tags are lost and are unrecoverable. Requests to use undeployed buoy tags must state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss. Requests must be made using a department provided electronic form.

(ii) Coastal: The department only issues replacement buoy tags for the coastal crab fishery in the case of extraordinary loss or on a case-by-case basis. Replacement buoy tags will not be issued in excess of the license holder's permanent pot limit.

(4) A violation of subsection (3) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(5) **Commercial crab fishery buoy requirements.**

(a) All buoys attached to commercial crab gear must consist of a durable material and remain floating on the water's surface when 5 pounds of weight is attached, unless otherwise authorized by permit issued by the director.

(b) It is unlawful to use bleach, antifreeze or detergent bottles, paint cans, or any other container as a buoy. The line attaching a buoy to shellfish gear must be weighted sufficiently to prevent the excess line from floating on the water's surface.

(c) No buoys attached to Puget Sound or coastal commercial crab gear ~~((in Puget Sound))~~ may be both red and white in color unless a minimum of 30 percent of the surface of each buoy is also prominently marked with an additional color or colors other than red or white. Red and white colors are reserved for personal use crab gear as described in WAC 220-330-020.

(d) It is unlawful for any coastal or Puget Sound commercial Dungeness crab fishery license holder to fish for crab unless the license holder has registered the buoy brand and buoy color(s) to be used with the license. The license holder, or alternate operator, must register the buoy brand and buoy color(s) to be used with the license each crab season using the WDFW online registration form. In the event that a license is transferred to another vessel or owner in the same season, the license holder must reregister the buoy brand and buoy color(s) to be used with the license for the remainder of that crab season. A license holder may register only one unique buoy brand and one unique buoy color scheme with the department per license. Persons holding more than one state license must register buoy color(s) for each license that are distinctly different. The buoy color(s) will be shown in a color photograph.

(i) All buoys fished under a single license must be marked in a uniform manner with one buoy brand number registered by the license holder with the department and be of identical color or color combinations, unless otherwise authorized by permit issued from the director.

(ii) It is unlawful for a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license holder to fish for crab using any other buoy brand or color(s) than those registered with and assigned to the license by the department.

**(6) (~~(Coastal)~~) Commercial crab fishery line requirements.**

(a) All crab pots used in (~~(the coastal)~~) any Dungeness crab fishery shall be set up to use only the amount of line reasonably necessary to compensate for tides, currents, and weather.

(b)(i) It is unlawful for a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license holder to use line that connects the main buoy to the crab pot that is not marked sufficiently to identify it as gear used exclusively in the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery.

(ii) For each shellfish pot used in the Washington coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery and rigged with line, that line must be marked with no less than 12 continuous inches of red in at least two places. At a minimum, 12 continuous inches of line must be marked in red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot.

(7) Violation of subsection (5) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520 Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-05-112, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17)

**WAC 220-340-460 Commercial crab fishery—Coastal Dungeness crab logbook requirements.** (1) It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in fishing for Dungeness crab in the coastal commercial fishery without a fully operational electronic monitoring system to fail to have in possession, and to complete a department-issued paper or a department-approved electronic logbook for all fishing activity occurring in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, the Columbia River, or the Pacific Ocean waters for all crab deliveries to a Washington port. Fully operational means the electronic monitoring system is collecting, storing, and transmitting data per WAC 220-340-420(12). For the purposes of this section, "delivery" is defined as provided in RCW 77.65.210.

(2) It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in fishing without a fully operational electronic monitoring system to fail to comply with the following method and time frame related to harvest logbook submittal and record keeping:

(a) The department must receive a copy of the completed logbook sheets or electronic fields within (~~(ten days)~~) 24 hours following any (~~(calendar month in which fishing occurred)~~) landing made by a vessel while fishing for Dungeness crab in the coastal commercial fishery without a fully operational electronic monitoring system. Completed Dungeness crab harvest (~~(logs)~~) logbooks must be (~~(sent)~~) submitted to the (~~(following address:)~~) Washington department of fish and wildlife (~~(, Attention: Coastal Dungeness Crab Manager, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563)~~) using a WDFW logbook drop box or the following electronic mail address: coastal.crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov.

(b) Vessel operators engaged in fishing for Dungeness crab in the coastal commercial fishery and without a fully operational electronic monitoring system must complete a logbook entry for each day fished prior to offloading. Vessel operators responsible for submitting



((logs)) harvest logbooks to the department must maintain a copy of all submitted ((logs)) harvest logbooks for no less than three years after the fishing activity ended.

(c) Vessel operators can obtain paper logbooks by contacting the department's coastal Dungeness crab manager at 360-249-4628 or at coastal.crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov.

(3) A violation of this section is an infraction, punishable under RCW 77.15.160.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-05-112, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17)

**WAC 220-340-510 Commercial ocean spot shrimp pot fishery—Coastal waters.** It is unlawful to fish for, possess, or deliver ocean spot shrimp (*Pandalus platyceros*) taken for commercial purposes from state waters west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, or from offshore waters, except as provided for in this section:

**License and area**

(1) It is unlawful to fish for, possess, or deliver spot shrimp taken for commercial purposes from state waters west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, or from offshore waters, unless the fisher has a valid Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot fishery license. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.500, Commercial fishing without a license—Penalty.

(2) It is unlawful to fish for or possess spot shrimp or to set spot shrimp gear in waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Oregon without the licenses or permits required to commercially fish for spot shrimp within the state waters of Oregon. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.550, Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.

**Season**

(3) It is unlawful to fish for, take, or possess spot shrimp on board a commercial fishing vessel, except from March 15 through September 15 of each year. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.550, Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.

(4) The total allowable catch of spot shrimp taken from waters west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line and from offshore waters during a calendar year is 200,000 pounds round weight. Of this 200,000 pounds round weight, no more than 100,000 pounds can be taken south of 47 degrees 04.00' N. latitude, and no more than 100,000 pounds can be taken north of 47 degrees 04.00' N. latitude.

**Gear**

(5) It is unlawful to fish with spot shrimp pot gear for commercial purposes if the pots exceed a maximum 153-inch bottom perimeter and a maximum 24-inch height. It is unlawful to possess spot shrimp taken with spot shrimp pot gear that exceeds a maximum 153-inch bottom perimeter and a maximum 24-inch height.

(a) Shrimp pot gear must be constructed with net webbing or rigid mesh. At least 50 percent of the net webbing or mesh covering the

sides of the pot must easily allow passage of a seven-eighths inch diameter dowel.

(b) Pot gear is required to have an escape mechanism as provided for in WAC 220-340-060.

(c) Set line end marker buoys must be floating and visible on the surface of the water, equipped with a pole, flag, radar reflector, and operating light, and marked with the clear identification of the license holder and the vessel designated on the coastal spot shrimp pot license.

(d) Fishers shall use only the amount of line reasonably necessary to compensate for tides, currents, and weather.

(6) It is unlawful to fish for spot shrimp for commercial purposes with more than a maximum of 500 pots. It is unlawful to possess spot shrimp taken for commercial purposes with more than a maximum of 500 pots.

(7) It is unlawful to use gear that has one or more line marks or to use multicolor line consistent with requirements for any other state or federally managed commercial fishery operating in the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone, or in the state waters of Washington, Oregon, or California.

(8) A violation of subsection (5) or (6) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

#### **Incidental catch**

~~((8))~~ (9) It is unlawful for persons fishing in any coastal spot shrimp fishery to deliver spot shrimp while having on board the fishing vessel any bottomfish taken in the coastal bottomfish fishery under WAC 220-355-100.

~~((9))~~ (10) It is unlawful to retain any species of finfish or shellfish taken with spot shrimp pot gear, except octopus, squid, or up to 50 pounds round weight of other shrimp species taken incidentally with spot shrimp pot gear.

~~((10))~~ (11) A violation of subsection ~~((8))~~ (9) or ~~((9))~~ (10) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.550, Violation of commercial fishing area or time—Penalty.

#### **Harvest logs**

~~((11))~~ (12) It is unlawful for any spot shrimp pot fishery license holder or vessel operator engaged in fishing for spot shrimp in the coastal commercial spot shrimp fishery to fail to complete a department-issued harvest log for all fishing activity in state or offshore waters.

~~((12))~~ (13) It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in fishing for spot shrimp for commercial purposes to fail to comply with the following method and time frame related to harvest log submittal and recordkeeping:

(a) Completed harvest logs must be submitted so that the department receives them within ~~((ten))~~ 10 days following any calendar month in which fishing occurred. Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot license holders can submit the completed harvest logs to a WDFW employee upon request, or mail the completed harvest logs to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attention: Coastal Spot Shrimp Manager, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563.

(b) Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot license holders or vessel operators engaged in fishing for spot shrimp in the coastal commercial

fishery must complete a harvest log entry for each day fished, prior to offloading the spot shrimp. Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot license holders must maintain a copy of all submitted harvest log entries for no less than three years after the fishing activity ended.

(c) Washington-coastal spot shrimp pot license holders or vessel operators can obtain a harvest logbook by contacting the department's coastal spot shrimp manager at 360-249-4628.

~~((13))~~ (14) A violation of subsection ~~((11))~~ (12) or ~~((12))~~ (13) of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.280, Reporting of fish or wildlife harvest—Rules violation—Penalty.

#### **Permit**

~~((14))~~ (15) It is unlawful to fish for, retain, land, or deliver spot shrimp taken with pot gear for commercial purposes without a valid coastal spot shrimp pot fishery permit.

~~((15))~~ (16) It is unlawful to take, retain, land, or deliver any spot shrimp taken with pot gear without complying with all provisions of a coastal spot shrimp pot fishery permit.

~~((16))~~ (17) A violation of subsection ~~((14))~~ (15) or ~~((15))~~ (16) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.750, Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-08-048, filed 3/31/22, effective 5/1/22)

### **WAC 220-340-520 Commercial shrimp pot fishery—Puget Sound.**

#### **License**

(1) It is unlawful to take, fish for, land, or deliver shrimp taken for commercial purposes with pot gear from Puget Sound waters without a valid Puget Sound shrimp pot license.

A Puget Sound shrimp pot license will only be issued to an individual who is a natural person, and this person shall be the primary operator. Holders of Puget Sound shrimp pot licenses may designate a single alternate operator per license.

#### **Pot Gear and area**

(2) It is unlawful to fish for shrimp for commercial purposes in Puget Sound using shellfish pot gear except during seasons opened by emergency rule.

(3) ~~((Gear restrictions in all areas, maximum 100 pots per fisher))~~ In all areas fishers are limited to a maximum of 100 spot shrimp pots, as defined in subsection (5)(d) of this section, and a maximum of 100 nonspot shrimp pots, as defined in subsection (5)(e) of this section, except for dual licensees as provided for in RCW 77.70.410.

(4) Buoy requirements, in all areas:

(a) Buoys must be solid orange in color and consist of durable material that will remain floating on the surface with five pounds attached; bleach or antifreeze bottles or other containers may not be used as floats.

(b) Buoys must be marked with the clear identification of the license holder and the vessel designated on the Puget Sound shrimp pot license.

(c) When two or more shrimp pots are attached to a common ground line, the number and type of pots (spot shrimp or nonspot shrimp pot) so attached must be clearly labeled on the required buoy.

(d) Fishers shall use only the amount of line reasonably necessary to compensate for tides, currents, and weather. The line attaching the pot to the buoy must be weighted sufficiently to prevent the line from floating on the surface.

(e) It is unlawful to use gear that has one or more line marks or to use multicolor line consistent with requirements for any other state or federally managed commercial fishery operating in the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone, or in the state waters of Washington, Oregon, or California.

(5) Pot requirements, in all areas:

(a) A shrimp pot may not exceed a maximum of 153-inch bottom perimeter and a maximum of 24-inch height.

(b) The entire top, bottom, and sides of the shrimp pot must be constructed of mesh material. Use of liners is prohibited.

(c) Entrance tunnels to shrimp pots may be constructed of any size mesh material. All entrance tunnels must open into the pot from the side. The sum of the maximum widths of all entrance tunnel openings must not exceed half of the perimeter of the bottom of the pot.

(d) Spot shrimp may only be harvested using pots with a minimum mesh size of one inch. Mesh size of one inch is defined as a mesh opening that a 7/8-inch square peg will pass through, excluding the entrance tunnels, except for flexible (web) mesh pots, where the mesh must be a minimum of 1 3/4 inch stretch measure. Stretch measure is defined as the distance between the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of one mesh, when the mesh is stretched vertically.

(e) Nonspot shrimp may only be harvested using pots with a minimum mesh size 1/2 inch. Mesh of 1/2 inch is defined as a mesh that a 3/8 inch square peg will pass through, excluding the entrance tunnels, except for flexible (web) mesh pots, where the mesh must be at a minimum 1 1/8 inch stretch measure. Stretch measure is defined as the distance between the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of one mesh, when the mesh is stretched vertically.

(6) Harvest restrictions, all areas:

(a) It is unlawful to set or pull shrimp pot gear from one hour after official sunset to one hour before official sunrise.

~~(b) ((It is unlawful to deploy spot shrimp pots and nonspot shrimp pots concurrently within the same Catch Reporting Area, with the following exceptions:~~

~~(i) Spot and nonspot shrimp pots may be concurrently deployed in Catch Area 23A but not within the same subarea (23A-E, 23A-W, 23A-C, or 23A-S) concurrently.~~

~~(ii) Nonspot pots may be deployed within Sequim Bay CSMA (WAC 220-320-120) concurrently with spot shrimp pots deployed in the remaining portion of Catch Area 25A outside of Sequim Bay CSMA.~~

~~(iii) All shrimp harvested must be landed and recorded on a shellfish receiving ticket before subsequent harvest may occur.~~

(e)) Each fisher or alternate operator is required to report their intended catch area of harvest, target species (spot or non-spot), and an estimate of total pounds that are being targeted prior to the deployment of any shrimp gear by email or text message to [shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:shrimp.report@dfw.wa.gov), or by using the Puget Sound commercial shrimp reporting website.

~~((d))~~ (c) It is unlawful to harvest nonspot and spot shrimp in the same day.

~~((e) It is unlawful to harvest shrimp in more than one catch area per day, except for concurrent pot deployment described in (b) of this subsection.~~

~~(f))~~ (d) Nonspot shrimp pot harvest restrictions:

(i) Harvest of nonspot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in Shrimp Management ((Area)) Region 2E.

(ii) Harvest of nonspot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in Shrimp Management Subregion 1A.

(iii) Harvest of nonspot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 175 feet in Catch Area 23A including the corresponding shrimp subareas (23A-E, 23A-W, 23A-S, 23A-C).

(iv) Harvest of nonspot shrimp is not permitted deeper than 150 feet in Shrimp Management Region 2W.

**(Reporting**

~~(7) All shrimp taken in the Puget Sound commercial shrimp fishery must be landed and recorded on Washington state fish receiving tickets within 24 hours of harvest. No fisher may land shrimp without immediate delivery to a wholesale fish buyer, or if transferred at sea, without transfer to a wholesale fish buyer. A fisher who is a wholesale fish buyer or a limited fish seller may complete and return a fish receiving ticket to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.)~~