



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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October 27, 2023

Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – October 2023

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed the optional October pre-season test for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery.

Sampling within the Long Beach and Westport Test Areas were completed on October 22, 2023, and October 23, 2023, respectively. Tests were conducted in accordance with the Tri-State Coastal Dungeness Crab Revised Pre-Season Testing Protocol, available at the following link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/pre-season-testing-protocols-2020-final.pdf>. Briefly, crab were collected from three stations within each area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms at each station. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. WDFW staff also collected shell condition data from the same crab collected from all depths and stations. The results for all stations are summarized below.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Westport	10/23/23	2.7%	8.7%	88.6%	0%	19.9%	No Test
Long Beach	10/22/23	4.3%	8.3%	87.4%	0%	17.8%	No Test

Definition of shell grades:

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B: slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

Note that only WDFW exercised the option (per the Tri-State Agreement) to conduct an October test. ODFW and CDFW will have meat recovery results in November.

The first **required** round of testing (per the Tri-State Agreement) will be completed by mid-November. Domoic acid testing will not be conducted until November. Tests will also be conducted during the same period in Oregon and California.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provide the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066.