



State of Washington  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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January 5, 2024

## **WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE**

### **Continued Season Opening Delay in Washington and Oregon (Klipsan Beach to Cape Falcon)**

On January 5, 2024, coastal Dungeness crab Tri-State policy representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) agreed to delay the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab season within the following area:

#### **Klipsan Beach, Washington (46° 28' 00" N. Lat.) (including Willapa Bay) Southward to Cape Falcon, Oregon (45° 46' 00" N. Lat.)**

- 73 hour presoak begins (setting gear): 8:00 am on January 29, 2024
- Hold Inspections: beginning at 12:00 pm on January 31, 2024
- Start date (pulling gear): 9:00 am on February 1, 2024

The decision to further delay the opening was based on crab condition tests that showed that crab within the Long Beach test area do not currently meet minimum meat recovery criteria.

In addition, based on the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) season opening date of December 11, 2023 and the agreed to sliding scale in the 2023-2024 harvest management agreement, landings by QIN have triggered a 49-day head start which results in a state season opening in the Quinault U&A on February 1, 2024 with gear set allowed on January 29, 2024. Additional details around the season opening in the area north of Klipsan Beach will be provided in a subsequent notice.

#### **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 between Cape Falcon, Oregon (45°46.00) and Point Arena, CA before the area between Cape Falcon, OR and Klipsan Beach, WA opens are subject to the Fair Start Provisions described below.

- Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Cape Falcon, OR: 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 between Point Arena, CA and Cape Falcon, OR before this area opens will not be allowed to fish in this area until 8:00 AM, March 2, 2024.
- 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.

## WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS:

The stations in the Long Beach test areas were completed on January 4, 2023. The results are summarized below. Due to weather conditions, pots were pulled after only a short soak and no shell condition data was collected.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Long Beach	1/4/23	7.0%	37.6%	55.5%	0%	22.0%	No Test

## COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date are summarized below and can also be found at this link:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters-notices#general-info>

2023 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA											
* Date is the date the pots were pulled											
Test Area	Number of pots	Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4	
		Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
<b>Washington</b>											
Northern	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Westport	54	10/23/23	19.9%	11/9/23	22.6%	12/10/23	24.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Long Beach	54	10/22/23	17.8%	11/8/23	^18.4%	11/28/23	19.4%	12/17/23	20.7%	1/4/23	^22.0%
<b>Oregon</b>											
Astoria (50-A)	18	NT	NT	11/9/23	18.9%	11/29/23	21.1%	12/17/23	22.9%	1/3/23	23.9%
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/9/23	21.2%	11/29/23	23.0%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Newport North (50-C and 50-D)	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	21.6%	11/29/23	23.7%	12/13/23	26.2%	NT	NT
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	24.6%	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36	NT	NT	11/14/23	24.0%	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36	NT	NT	11/14/23	23.2%	11/29/23	24.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Port Orford (50-K)	18	NT	NT	11/8/23	24.1%	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/8/23	25.2%	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
<b>California</b>											
Crescent City	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	26.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Trinidad	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	24.8%	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Eureka	36	NT	NT	11/8/23	23.4%	11/28/23	25.5%	NT	NT	NT	NT
<b>District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)</b>											
Bodega Bay	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
San Francisco	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT

^12 hr soak time

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors that work cooperatively with WDFW to successfully complete this important work.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Jamie Fuller at [Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-580-0875 or Matt George at [Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov) 360-640-1066