



State of Washington

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

June 20, 2024

### WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

#### Summer Fishery Management

With the intent of protecting crab in the soft-shelled condition, the following provisions of the Coastal Dungeness Crab Summer Fishery Management Plan will be in effect at 12:01 A.M. July 7, 2024, through the end of the season:

**It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period (Sunday through Saturday). See the list of catch accounting periods below.**

Any crab taken prior to July 7, 2024, and not landed before 11:59 P.M., July 6, 2024, will be considered part of the July 7 through July 13, 2024, accounting period catch.

#### Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- July 7 – July 13, 2024
- July 14 – July 20, 2024
- July 21 – July 27, 2024
- July 28 – August 3, 2024
- August 4 – August 10, 2024
- August 11 – August 17, 2024
- August 18 – August 24, 2024
- August 25 – August 31, 2024
- September 1 – September 7, 2024
- September 8 – September 15, 2024

#### MORE INFORMATION:

Weekly trip limits as dictated by the Summer Fishery Management Plan protect Washington State's Dungeness crab resource from handling mortality. Permanent implementation of the 2,500-pound limit on July 1 has been in place since 2015. To avoid confusion, the weekly landing limit will always start on the first Sunday in July. WDFW will continue to collect shell condition data through the remainder of the season both dockside and at-sea and will take additional measures following the Plan's sampling protocols if large numbers of soft-shelled crab are present. **WDFW relies on consenting commercial fishers to collect at-sea shell condition data. If you are contacted about scheduling a ride along trip, please do your best to accommodate our request. If at-sea shell condition data cannot be collected as outlined in the Summer Fishery Management Plan, a reduced weekly landing limit will be considered regardless of crab condition.**

As a reminder, beginning May 1 through September 15, it is unlawful to leave Dungeness crab pots deployed in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Washington for more than 14 consecutive days without making a Dungeness crab landing. This gear tending requirement ensures that gear that is not being actively fished is removed from the water as well as contributes to efforts to reduce entanglements with marine mammals by minimizing gear in the water during the period when whales are more likely to be present off the Washington Coast. For more information on this rule or other coastal

commercial Dungeness crab fishery rules, please visit the rules and regulations page on our website at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal>

More information about the Summer Fishery Management Plan can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/summer-fishery-management-plan.pdf>

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Vessels leaving the fishery must submit a departure report to WDFW before turning off their EM system.** Departure reports must contain vessel name, license number, and departure date. Reports can be sent by email to [Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov) or by text to Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596.

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) or 360-640-1066.