



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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August 23, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

QIN SSMA Open to State Fishers

In response to the closure of the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) Dungeness crab fishery, the QIN Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) will open to state fishers **at 8:00 A.M. on August 26, 2024**. The boundaries of the QIN SSMA are currently defined shoreward of a line approximating the 17-fathom depth curve between the mouth of Joe Creek (47°12.25) and Split Rock (47°24.50) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°20.00' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°28.50' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°12.25' N. Lat. 124°19.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47°12.25' N. Lat. 124°12.28' W. Lon.

Please note that a reduced pot limit and a weekly landing limit remain in effect. Pot limits are as follows:

- 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.

A 2,500-pound weekly landing limit remains in effect within each summer catch accounting period. **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 the remaining catch accounting periods below.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- August 25 – August 31, 2024
- September 1 – September 7, 2024
- September 8 – September 15, 2024

State fishers are advised that tribal gear recovery efforts are currently underway with the QIN SSMA. Please provide adequate distance when setting pots within this area to ensure gear recovery can proceed uninterrupted.

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>

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 or by text to Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596.
- Each crab pot must be rigged with line that is marked with 12 inches of continuous red in at least two places. At a minimum, 12 inches of continuous line must be marked in red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot. WAC 220-340-430 (6ii).
- License owners **MUST** register one unique buoy color scheme per coastal crab license with WDFW. License owners must complete buoy registration **annually** using the WDFW online registration form. To access the registration form visit: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1a6ae9a42a7342d4884f63a089968aa9>. For questions or assistance, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.

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