



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

October 25, 2024,

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Participant:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify line marking requirements that apply to the 2024-25 season. WDFW is currently in the process of developing updates to line marking requirements. **Proposed line-marking changes have NOT been implemented for the 2024-25 season.** WDFW does NOT recommend participants purchase manufactured state-fishery specific line until new rules are finalized and adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

LINE MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Current line marking requirements in [WAC 220-340-430](#) remain in effect for the 2024-2025 season. WDFW will NOT be adopting any new line marking rules that pertain to the 2024-2025 season.

All coastal Dungeness crab gear is required to have 12 continuous inches of red at two locations, within one fathom from the pot, and within one fathom from the main buoy on the line connected to the pot, as shown in the photo. The **12-inch span of red must be continuous.**

Lines may be marked by a variety of methods; examples include, but are not limited to, the application of red paint, or by interweaving red line into line of another color. **Marking line with zip ties or other implements at regular intervals does not fulfill this requirement.** The use of line marks or color combinations in Washington fixed gear fisheries that are required for other state or federal fisheries are prohibited.

BUOY REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

License owners or alternate operators MUST register one unique buoy color scheme **annually** using the WDFW online registration form. Buoy registration must be completed before the vessel begins fishing each season. If you are a new participant in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 to verify your buoy color scheme is available.

To access the registration form, scan the QR code or visit: <http://qrcodes.pro/jDEArX>. Registration requires that you use a smartphone or tablet to take photos of your buoys. If you do not have a smartphone or need help to complete the registration, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.

No buoys attached to coastal commercial crab gear may be both red and white in color unless a minimum of 30 percent of the surface of the buoy is also prominently marked with an additional color or colors other than red or white.

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.

