



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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November 22, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Delayed in Washington

In consultation with Dungeness crab Tri-State fishery managers from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), WDFW is delaying the opening of the 2024-25 WA Coastal Dungeness crab fishery. On November 20, 2024, Tri-State fishery managers agreed on a coastwide delay from Point Area, CA to the US/Canada border through at least December 15th. This decision was based on crab condition tests results from multiple test areas that do not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria.

Tri-State Dungeness crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that after the first round of testing, if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 24% south of Cascade Head) a delay is required, and additional testing is conducted before a season opening date can be confirmed. A second round of meat recovery is scheduled to be conducted in early December. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

Sampling within the Long Beach Test Area was completed on November 7, 2024. Round 1 testing within the Westport Test Area was not completed due to inclement weather. WDFW plans to complete Round 2 testing within both the Westport and Long Beach Test Areas before December 7, 2024.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Long Beach	11/7/24	0.9%	8.8%	90.3%	0%	17.0%	< 2

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

COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date are summarized below and can also be found at this link: https://www.psmfc.org/crab/2024-2025%20files/Tri-StatePreseasonCoastwideResults_2024_master.pdf

2024 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	
		Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
Washington							
Northern	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT		
Westport	54	10/23/24	17.3%^	NT	NT		
Long Beach	54	NT	NT	11/7/24	17.0%		
Oregon							
Astoria (50-A)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	20.7%		
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	21.5%		
Pacific City (50-C)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	21.3%		
Newport North (50-D)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	28.4%		
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	27.1%		
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	25.3%**		
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36	NT	NT	11/16/24	24.1%^		
Port Orford (50-K)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	23.6%		
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/6/24	25.4%		
California							
Crescent City	36	NT	NT	NT	NT		
Trinidad	36	NT	NT	NT	NT		
Eureka	36	NT	NT	NT	NT		
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)							
Bodega Bay	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT		
San Francisco	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT		
^Crabs retained in vessel hold overnight before offload							
** Crab collected from less than total pots set in area H (15 pots)							

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 or 360-580-0875 or Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066.