



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

January 8, 2025

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening from Cape Falcon, OR to Klipsan Beach, WA

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 open the commercial Dungeness crab season within the following areas on January 15, 2025.

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

- 73 hour presoak begins (setting gear): 8:00 am on January 12, 2025
- Hold Inspections: beginning at 12:00 pm on January 14, 2025
- Start date (pulling gear): 9:00 am on January 15, 2025

The decision to open within this area is based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW that indicate shell condition and meat recovery within the Long Beach Test Area currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria as defined in the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols (23% north of Cascade Head and 24% south of Cascade Head). Test results are included at the end of this notice.

POT LIMITS:

Fishers participating in the fishery south of Klipsan Beach or in Willapa Bay are subject to reduced pot limits. Fishers with permanent pot limits of 500 and 300 will be allowed to use 400 or 250 pots, respectively. Unused buoy tags are prohibited from being attached to crab gear and must be on board any participating vessel until the temporary pot limits are lifted on gear set day for the north of Klipsan opener. Vessels are prohibited from storing or possessing crab pots on board in excess of the vessels pot limit more than 48-hours prior to pot limits being lifted.

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, OR (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 (45° 46.00):** 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 on February 14, 2025.

- **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.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until further notice.
- All vessels must have a qualifying electronic monitoring (EM) system installed, activated, and transmitting data to the Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission (PSMFC) before participating in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery. More information on EM can be found at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/electronic-monitoring>
- Each crab pot must be rigged with line that is marked in two places with 12 inches of red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot. [WAC 220-340-430](#)
- 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 fishing. If you are a new participant in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 to verify your color scheme is available. To access the registration form visit: <http://qr.codes.pro/jDEArX> . If you do not have a smartphone or are unable to complete the registration, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.
- No deliveries of crab caught south of Cape Falcon will be allowed into any ports north of the Columbia River except the ports of Ilwaco and Chinook, until 9:00 a.m., January 15, 2025. Vessels must adhere to ODFW’s closed area transit allowance requirements.
- Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior by calling Sgt. Brian Alexander 360-580-6200, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situations will require notification.
 - Vessels transiting north of 47°00.00 N. Lat with crab caught south of Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan Beach opening.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

Testing was conducted in the Long Beach test area on January 6, 2025. The results are summarized below. Coastwide results are included on the following page.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Long Beach	01/06/25	3.3%	26.9%	69.8%	0%	24.3%	No Test

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.

COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date can be found at this link:

https://www.psmfc.org/crab/2024-2025%20files/Tri-StatePreseasonCoastwideResults_2024_master.pdf