



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103P (May 2009)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Permanent Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules 15-01

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

Yes No If Yes, explain: WAC 220-52-041 and 220-52-042 were adopted on December 19, 2014, and WAC 220-52-045 and 220-52-049 were adopted on January 16, 2015.

Purpose: This rule change project includes revisions to existing coastal commercial Dungeness crab rules to improve the intent and enforceability of rules that describe the process and requirements for issuing replacement buoy tags and submitting coastal Dungeness crab logbooks. These changes also implement gear retrieval requirements for coastal Dungeness crab fishermen to improve enforceability and minimize derelict crab gear. Additional changes to the pre-season gear set period are promote safety, enhance enforceability and provide for a coordinated season opening with Oregon.

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 220-52-041, 220-52-042, 220-52-045, and 220-52-049

Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.045, 77.12.047

Other authority :

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 14-21-167 on 10/22/2014 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version:

The adopted version was changed from the proposed version as filed under WSR 14-21-167 to include a September 15th end date to the gear tending provision described in WAC 220-52-049 and to include language in WAC 220-52-045 to describe the target start date for the opening of the coastal commercial Dungeness crab season is December 1 based on the results of pre-season test fishing to determine crab condition. These changes provide more clarity in the rule language.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: _____ phone () _____
Address: _____ fax () _____
e-mail _____

Date adopted: December 19, 2014 and January 16, 2015

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Miranda Wecker

SIGNATURE

Miranda Wecker

TITLE

Chair, Fish and Wildlife Commission

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 21, 2015

TIME: 10:34 AM

WSR 15-03-091

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	_____	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 07-23-090, filed 11/20/07, effective 12/21/07)

WAC 220-52-041 Coastal Dungeness crab logbook requirements. (1)

It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in fishing for Dungeness crab in the coastal commercial fishery to fail to have in possession, and complete a department-issued logbook for all fishing activity occurring in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, the Columbia River, or the Pacific Ocean waters (~~(adjacent to the state of)~~) for all crab deliveries to a Washington port. For the purposes of this section, "delivery" is defined as provided in RCW 77.65.210.

(2) It is unlawful for any vessel operator engaged in fishing to fail to comply with the following method and time frame related to harvest logbook submittal and record keeping:

(a) The department must receive a copy of the completed logbook sheets within ten days following any calendar month in which fishing occurred. Completed Dungeness crab harvest logs must be sent to the following address: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attention: Coastal Dungeness Crab Manager, 48 Devonshire Rd., Montesano, WA 98563.

(b) Vessel operators engaged in fishing for Dungeness crab in the coastal commercial fishery must complete a logbook entry for each day fished prior to offloading. Vessel operators responsible for submitting logs to the department must maintain a copy of all submitted logs for no less than three years after the fishing activity ended.

(c) Vessel operators can obtain logbooks by contacting the department's coastal Dungeness crab manager at 360-249-4628.

(3) A violation of this section is ((a misdemeanor)) an infraction, punishable under RCW (~~(77.15.280)~~) 77.15.160.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-23-016, filed 11/9/12, effective 12/10/12)

WAC 220-52-042 Commercial crab fishery—Buoy tag, pot tag, and buoy requirements. (1) **Buoy tag and pot tag required.**

(a) It is unlawful to place in the water, pull from the water, possess on the water, or transport on the water any crab buoy or crab pot without an attached buoy tag and pot tag that meet the requirements of this section, except as provided by (b) of this subsection. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(b) Persons operating under a valid coastal gear recovery permit as provided in WAC 220-52-045 may possess crab pots or buoys missing tags or bearing the tags of another license holder, provided the permittee adheres to provisions of the permit. Failure to adhere to the provisions of the permit is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.750 Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.

(2) **Commercial crab fishery pot tag requirements:** Each shellfish pot used in the commercial crab fishery must have a durable, nonbiodegradable tag securely attached to the pot that is permanently and legibly marked with the license owner's name or license number and telephone number. If the tag information is illegible, or the tag is

lost for any reason, the pot is not in compliance with state law. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(3) **Commercial crab fishery buoy tag requirements.**

(a) The department issues crab pot buoy tags to the owner of each commercial crab fishery license upon payment of an annual buoy tag fee per crab pot buoy tag. Prior to setting gear, each Puget Sound crab license holder must purchase 100 tags, and each coastal crab fisher must purchase 300 or 500 tags, depending on the crab pot limit assigned to the license.

(b) In coastal waters each crab pot must have the department-issued buoy tag securely attached to the first buoy on the crab pot buoy line (the buoy closest to the crab pot), and the buoy tag must be attached to the end of the first buoy, at the end away from the crab pot buoy line.

(c) In Puget Sound, all crab buoys must have the department-issued buoy tag attached to the outermost end of the buoy line.

(d) If there is more than one buoy attached to a pot, only one buoy tag is required.

(e) Replacement crab buoy tags.

(i) Puget Sound: The department only issues additional tags to replace lost tags to owners of Puget Sound commercial crab fishery licenses who obtain, complete, and sign a declaration, under penalty of perjury, in the presence of an authorized department employee. The declaration must state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss.

(ii) Coastal: The department only issues replacement buoy tags for the coastal crab fishery 15 days after the season is opened and after a signed affidavit is received by ((the)) an authorized department ((from the owner of a coastal commercial crab fishery license)) employee. The affidavit must be signed by the primary or alternate operator fishing the commercial crab gear and state the number of buoy tags lost, the location and date where the licensee last observed lost gear or tags, and the presumed cause of the loss.

(A) Coastal crab license holders with a 300-pot limit may replace ~~((up to 15))~~ lost tags ~~((by January 15th, up to a total of 30 lost tags by February 15th, and up to a total of 45 lost tags after March 15th of each season))~~ according to the following schedule:

(I) Period 1, up to 15 tags.

(II) Period 2, 10 additional tags with no more than 25 tags total issued through the end of Period 2.

(III) Period 3, 5 additional tags with no more than 30 tags total issued through the end of the season.

(B) Coastal crab license holders with a 500-pot limit may replace ~~((up to 25))~~ lost tags ~~((by January 15th, up to a total of 50 lost tags by February 15th, and up to a total of 75 lost tags after March 15th of each season.~~

~~(C))~~ according to the following schedule:

(I) Period 1, up to 25 tags.

(II) Period 2, 15 additional tags with no more than 40 tags total issued through the end of Period 2.

(III) Period 3, 10 additional tags with no more than 50 tags total issued through the end of the season.

(C) Replacement tag periods are defined as follows:

(I) Period 1: The first business day after 15 days following the season opening through the next 30 days.

(II) Period 2: The first business day after the end of Period 1 through the next 30 days.

(III) Period 3: The first business day after the end of Period 2 through the end of the season.

(D) In the case of extraordinary loss of crab pot gear, the department may issue replacement tags in excess of the amount listed in this subsection on a case-by-case basis.

(4) A violation of subsection (3) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(5) **Commercial crab fishery buoy requirements.**

(a) All buoys attached to commercial crab gear must consist of a durable material and remain floating on the water's surface when 5 pounds of weight is attached.

(b) No buoys attached to commercial crab gear in Puget Sound may be both red and white in color unless a minimum of 30 percent of the surface of each buoy is also prominently marked with an additional color or colors other than red or white. Red and white colors are reserved for personal use crab gear as described in WAC 220-56-320.

(c) It is unlawful for any coastal Dungeness crab fishery license holder to fish for crab unless the license holder has registered the buoy brand and buoy color(s) to be used with the license. A license holder may register only one unique buoy brand and one buoy color scheme with the department per license. Persons holding more than one state license must register buoy color(s) for each license that are distinctly different. The buoy color(s) will be shown in a color photograph.

(i) All buoys fished under a single license must be marked in a uniform manner with one buoy brand number registered by the license holder with the department and be of identical color or color combinations.

(ii) It is unlawful for a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license holder to fish for crab using any other buoy brand or color(s) than those registered with and assigned to the license by the department.

(6) Violation of subsection (5) of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-23-016, filed 11/9/12, effective 12/10/12)

WAC 220-52-045 Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Coastal. The open times and areas for coastal commercial crab fishing are as follows:

(1) Coastal, Pacific Ocean, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay and Columbia River waters are ~~((open))~~ closed to commercial crab fishing ~~((December 1 through September 15 except that it is permissible to set baited crab gear beginning at 8:00 a.m. November 28))~~ except as provided by emergency rule. The target date for the commercial season opening is December 1 based on the results of test fishing to determine crab condition.

(2) The department may delay opening of the coastal crab fishery due to softshell crab conditions. If the department delays a season due to softshell crab conditions, the following provisions will apply:

(a) After consultation with the Oregon department of fish and wildlife and the California department of fish and wildlife, the director may establish a softshell crab demarcation line by emergency rule.

(b) For waters of the Pacific Ocean north of Point Arena, California, it is unlawful for a person to use a vessel to fish in any area where the season opening is delayed due to softshell crab for the first 30 days following the opening of the area if the vessel was employed in the coastal crab fishery during the previous 45 days.

(c) It is unlawful for fishers to set crab gear in any area where the season opening is delayed, except that gear may be set as allowed by emergency rule. Emergency rules will allow setting ((64—hours)) crab gear in advance of the delayed season opening time.

(d) It is unlawful to fish for or possess Dungeness crab or to set crab gear in waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the states of Oregon or California without the licenses or permits required to commercially fish for Dungeness crab within the state waters of Oregon or California. Washington coastal Dungeness crab permits are valid only in Washington state waters, the Columbia River, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, and the Pacific Ocean in federal waters north of the Washington/Oregon border (46°15'00"N. Lat.), extending 200 nautical miles westward.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-23-016, filed 11/9/12, effective 12/10/12)

WAC 220-52-049 Commercial crab fishery—Gear limits—Coastal.

(1) Coastal crab pot limit.

(a) It is unlawful for a person to take or fish for Dungeness crab for commercial purposes in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, the Columbia River, or waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Washington unless the person's Dungeness crab coastal fishery license or the equivalent Oregon or California Dungeness crab fishery license is assigned a crab pot limit. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(b) It is unlawful for a person to deploy or fish more shellfish pots than the number of shellfish pots assigned to the license held by that person. A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(c) It is unlawful to use any vessel other than the vessel designated on a license to operate or possess shellfish pots assigned to that license. A violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.530, Unlawful use of a nondesignated vessel—Penalty.

(d) It is unlawful for a person to take or fish for Dungeness crab or to deploy crab pots unless the person is in possession of valid documentation issued by the department that specifies the crab pot limit assigned to the license. A violation of this subsection is a

misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.540, Unlawful use of a commercial fishery license—Penalty.

(e) 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 21 consecutive days without making a Dungeness crab landing.

(2) **Grays Harbor pot limit of 200.** It is unlawful for any person to take or fish for crab for commercial purposes in Grays Harbor (Catch Area 60B) with more than 200 shellfish pots in the aggregate. It is unlawful for any group of persons using the same vessel to take or fish for crab for commercial purposes in Grays Harbor with more than 200 shellfish pots. Violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor, punishable under RCW 77.15.520, Commercial fishing—Unlawful gear or methods—Penalty.

(3) **Determination of coastal crab pot limits.**

(a) The number of crab pots assigned to a Washington Dungeness crab coastal fishery license, or to an equivalent Oregon or California Dungeness crab fishery license is based on documented landings of Dungeness crab taken from waters of the Pacific Ocean south of the United States/Canada border and west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, and from coastal estuaries in the states of Washington, Oregon, and California. Documented landings may be evidenced only by valid Washington state shellfish receiving tickets, or equivalent valid documents from the states of Oregon and California, which show Dungeness crab were taken between December 1, 1996, and September 16, 1999. Such documents must have been received by the respective states no later than October 15, 1999.

(b) The following criteria is used to determine and assign a crab pot limit to a Dungeness crab coastal fishery license, or to an equivalent Oregon or California Dungeness crab fishery license:

(i) The three "qualifying coastal Dungeness crab seasons" are from December 1, 1996, through September 15, 1997; from December 1, 1997, through September 15, 1998; and from December 1, 1998, through September 15, 1999. Of the three qualifying seasons, the one with the most poundage of Dungeness crab landed on a license determines the crab pot limit for that license. A crab pot limit of 300 will be assigned to a license with landings totaling up to 35,999 pounds and a crab pot limit of 500 will be assigned to a license with landings totaling 36,000 pounds of crab or more.

(ii) Landings of Dungeness crab made in the states of Oregon or California on valid Dungeness crab fisheries licenses during a qualifying season may be used for purposes of assigning a crab pot limit to a Dungeness crab fishery license, provided that documentation of the landings is provided to the department by the Oregon department of fish and wildlife and/or the California department of fish and game.

(iii) Landings of Dungeness crab made in Washington, Oregon, and California on valid Dungeness crab fishery licenses during a qualifying season may be combined for purposes of assigning a crab pot limit, provided that the same vessel was named on the licenses, and the same person held the licenses. A crab pot limit assigned as a result of combined landings is invalidated by any subsequent split in ownership of the licenses. No vessel named on a Dungeness crab fishery license will be assigned more than one coastal crab pot limit.

(4) **Appeals of coastal crab pot limits.** An appeal of a crab pot limit by a coastal commercial license holder must be filed with the

department on or before October 18, 2001. The shellfish pot limit assigned to a license by the department will remain in effect until such time as the appeal process is concluded.