

**Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)
Amending Coastal Dungeness Crab Rules**

Rules amended as part of this rule making:

WAC 220-340-430 Commercial crab fishery – Buoy tag, pot tag, and buoy requirements
WAC 220-340-440 Commercial crab gear – Possession of another’s gear and tag tampering

A. Reasons for adopting the rules:

Changes to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations are needed to revise the structure of the replacement buoy tag program and provide a mechanism for commercial Dungeness crab fishermen to lawfully transport commercial crab pots through Washington waters that have buoy tags issued by another state. Changes will streamline the coastal Dungeness crab replacement buoy tag program and allow the transport of out of state commercial crab gear through Washington waters on a limited basis. Both measures improve the enforceability of the Washington crab pot limit program.

B. Difference between the text of the proposed rules and the text of the rules as adopted:

None

C. Summary of comments and WDFW response and consideration for the comments:

In addition to discussing these proposed rule changes at two public meetings in the spring of 2017, all coastal Dungeness crab license owners received a letter describing the rule changes. Public comment was open through August 6, 2017 and a public hearing was held at the time of the Commission briefing on August 5, 2017. No public comment was provided at the Commission briefing or received by WDFW.