



**RULE-MAKING ORDER
EMERGENCY RULE ONLY**

**CR-103E (December 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.350
and 34.05.360)**

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: November 24, 2021
TIME: 4:34 PM

WSR 21-24-054

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife (Order 21-265)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify)

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

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: The purpose of this emergency rule is to open coastal commercial crab seasons.

Citation of rules affected by this order:

- New:
- Repealed:
- Amended: WAC 220-340-420; WAC 220-340-450
- Suspended:

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

Other authority:

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding: Mandatory pick rate allowance for coastal crab will be achieved by the opening dates contained herein. The area from Klipsan Beach to the U.S. Canada border remains closed pending the outcome of State-Tribal harvest management agreements. The stepped opening periods provide for a fair start for fishers that chose to wait to fish in areas that have been delayed. Pot limits will reduce the crowding effect in the area that is open and language improves enforcement of pot limits. There is insufficient time to adopt permanent rules.

**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Federal statute:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Federal rules or standards:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	___	Amended	___	Repealed	___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New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:

New 2 Amended ____ Repealed ____

The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New ____ Amended ____ Repealed ____

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	____

Date Adopted: November 24, 2021
Name: Kelly Susewind
Title: Director

Signature:



NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-42000W Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-420, effective immediately until further notice:

- (1) It is unlawful for any fisher or wholesale dealer or buyer to land or purchase Dungeness crab taken from Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or Washington coastal or adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean from any vessel, unless:
 - (a) Each vessel receives a hold inspection certificate from an authorized agency official that includes a unique vessel inspection certificate number and
 - (b) The vessel inspection certificate number is recorded on all shellfish tickets completed for coastal Dungeness crab landings until further notice.

- (2) It is unlawful for persons participating in the Columbia River, Coastal, or Willapa Bay commercial Dungeness crab fishery to:
 - (a) Deploy or operate more than 400 shellfish pots if the permanent number of shellfish pots assigned to the Coastal commercial crab fishery license held by that person is 500.
 - (b) Deploy or operate more than 250 shellfish pots if the permanent number of shellfish pots assigned to the Coastal Dungeness crab fishery license held by that person is 300.
 - (c) Fail to maintain onboard any participating vessel the excess crab pot buoy tags assigned to the Coastal Dungeness crab fishery license being fished.

- (3) It is unlawful to possess or deliver Dungeness crab unless the following conditions are met:
 - (a) Vessels that participated in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Klipsan Beach (46°28.00 North Latitude) to Point Arena, CA, including Willapa Bay and the Columbia River, may possess crab for delivery into Washington ports south of 47°00.00 N. Lat., provided the crab were taken south of Klipsan (46°28.00 N. Lat.).
 - (b) The vessel does not enter the area north of 47°00.00 N. Lat. unless the operator of the vessel has contacted the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and allows a vessel-hold inspection if requested by Fish and Wildlife officers prior to entering this area. Prior to entering the area north of 47°00.00 N. Lat., the vessel operator must call 360-580-6200, and report the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery 24 hours prior to entering the area.

- (4) It is unlawful for a vessel not designated on a Dungeness crab coastal fishery license to deploy crab pot gear except under the following conditions:
 - (a) The vessel deploys pot gear only during the 73-hour period immediately preceding the season opening date and during the 48-hour period immediately following the season opening date;
 - (b) The undesignated vessel carries no more than 250 crab pots at any one time; and;
 - (c) The primary or alternate operator of the crab pot gear named on the license associated with the gear is on board the undesignated vessel while the gear is being deployed.

- (5) Unless otherwise amended all other provisions of the permanent rule remain in effect.

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-340-45000E Commercial crab fishery—Seasons and areas—Coastal.

Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 220-340-450 effective immediately until further notice: it is unlawful to fish for Dungeness crab in Washington coastal waters, the Pacific Ocean, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, or the Columbia River, except as provided in this section.

- (1) Open area: The area from Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to the WA/OR border (46°15.00) and Willapa Bay.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the waters of Willapa Bay include the marine waters east of a line connecting 46°44.76 N, 124°05.76 W and 46°38.93 N, 124°04.33 W.
- (3) It is permissible to set crab gear beginning at 8:00 a.m., November 28, 2021.
- (4) It is permissible to pull crab gear beginning at 9:00 a.m., December 1, 2021.
- (5) Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that participate in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington (46°28.00), including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) opens, are prohibited from fishing in the following areas for the durations specified:
 - (a) The waters between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and Oysterville (46°33.00) until 10 days have elapsed from the time that the area north of Klipsan Beach opens; and
 - (b) The waters between Oysterville (46°33.00) and the U.S. Canadian border until 35 days have elapsed from the time that the area north of Oysterville opens
- (6) All other provisions of the permanent rule remain in effect.