



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Contact: Dan Ayres 360-249-4628 (ext. 209)
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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

**Season Opening Delayed In Washington, Oregon and
California (North of Point Arena)**

On Wednesday December 6, 2017 the 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 further delay the opening of the 2017-18 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Point Area, California north to the US/Canada border until at least December 31, 2017. This decision was based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW, ODFW and CDFW which shows that some test areas in Oregon and California do not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria.

The Tri-State Dungeness Crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 25% south of Cascade Head) a season delay is required and additional testing is necessary before a season opening date can be confirmed. Crab tested from Washington test areas do meet the criteria, however Tri-State protocols, established to provide for an orderly season opening, call for a delay in areas that are adjacent to areas with low meat recovery.

A third round of testing in areas not yet meeting the minimum will be scheduled with a target completion date of December 22. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests and additional Tri-State discussions.

Coast-wide test meat recovery results to date are found in the attached table.

2017 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA

* Date is the date the pots were pulled

Test Area	Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2	
	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %
Washington						
Northern	no test	no test	11/13/17	No test, too few crab **	no test	no test
Westport	10/26/17	20.2%	11/5/27	20.9%	12/4/17	23.9%
Long Beach	10/24/17	19.9%	11/7/17	20.2%	12/4/17	25.0%
Oregon						
Astoria (50-A)*	no test	no test	11/11/17	18.2%	11/30/17	22.3%
Garibaldi (50-B)*	no test	no test	11/11/17	21.4%	12/5/17	21.9%
Newport North (50-C and 50-D)	no test	no test	11/6/17	22.2%	11/27/17	25.4%
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	no test	no test	11/6/17	23.4%	11/27/17	25.5%
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	no test	no test	11/6/17	24.1%	12/5/17	25.9%
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	no test	no test	11/6/17	23.6%	12/1/17	24.9%
Port Orford (50-K)*	no test	no test	11/7/17	20.7%	11/28/17	18.3%
Brookings (50-L)*	no test	no test	11/7/17	18.2%	11/28/17	18.0%
California						
Crescent City	no test	no test	11/6/2017*	16.7%	12/5/2017*	21.4%
Trinidad	no test	no test	11/6/17	14.6%	12/5/2017	18.9%
Eureka	no test	no test	11/6/2017*	16.1%	12/5/2017	19.7%
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)						
Bodega Bay*	10/31/17	25.2%	no test	no test	no test	no test
San Francisco	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test

*Only one test station in each area (18 pots)

** Below 300lb minimum poundage