



State of Washington  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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**WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE**

WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations effective July 2, 2017:

**It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period (Sunday through Saturday). See the list of catch accounting periods below.**

Any crab taken prior to July 2, 2017, and not landed before 11:59 p.m. July 1, 2017, become part of the July 2 through July 8, 2017 accounting period catch.

Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

- July 2 – July 8, 2017
- July 9 – July 15, 2017
- July 16 – July 22, 2017
- July 23 – July 29, 2017
- July 30 – August 5, 2017
- August 6 – August 12, 2017
- August 13 – August 19, 2017
- August 20 – August 26, 2017
- August 27 – September 2, 2017
- September 3 – September 9, 2017
- September 10 – September 15, 2017

**JUSTIFICATION:**

To avoid confusion, the weekly landing limit will begin on July 2, 2017 to align with the Sunday through Saturday accounting periods. Furthermore, WDFW will continue to collect shell condition data through the remainder of the season and take additional measures, following the status quo testing protocols, if large numbers of soft shelled crab are present.

This is the second season with a permanent implementation of the 2,500 pot limit on July 1 (to avoid confusion this will always start on the first Sunday in July). For more information feel free to reference the June 24, 2015 letter is on our web site at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters/letter\\_jun24\\_2015.pdf](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters/letter_jun24_2015.pdf)