



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Meat Recovery Testing along the South Coast of Washington

UPDATE

As described in our last industry notice, WDFW was able to complete a third meat recovery test in the Long Beach area according to Tri-State testing protocols, which included a 24-hour soak at all depths. However, due to continued difficult ocean conditions, the final meat recovery results will not be available until tomorrow, Saturday, December 29. The Tri-State Committee has agreed to proceed with the season opening as intended with a one-day shift from the dates in our December 21 announcement recognizing the delay in meat recovery results.

We will confirm which of the two following scenarios will be in place as soon as the test results are available tomorrow.

If the results of the test show that crab meet the 23 percent meat recovery, the season will open in the area between Klipsan Beach, Washington and Cape Arago, Oregon at 9:00 am January 4, 2019, with a 73-hour gear set beginning at 8:00 am on January 1, 2019. Hold inspections will be conducted beginning at noon January 3, 2019.

If the results of the test show that crab do not meet the 23 percent meat recovery, the season opening will be delayed in the area between Klipsan Beach, Washington and Cape Blanco, Oregon until 9:00 am January 15, with a 73-hour gear set beginning at 8:00 am on January 12, 2019. Hold inspections will be conducted beginning at noon January 11, 2019.

Please utilize the following methods to access season opening information.

- Email: join the WDFW Coastal Crab email list (if your email is not on this list, you can have it added by sending a request to Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov).
- WDFW Web Site: go to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/> look under "Letters to Crab Fishers". **Note that the website cannot be updated until Monday.**
- WDFW Montesano Office Crab Hotline: 360-249-4628 (extension 279)

Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the commercial crab season opening north of Klipsan Beach.