



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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December 27, 2013

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fisher:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with final details relative to the 2013-14 coastal Dungeness crab fishery **including information on the opening of the state fishery north of Klipsan Beach.**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Quinault Indian Nation have recently agreed to the terms of a Harvest Management Agreement for the 2013-14 season. WDFW has also finalized management agreements with the Makah, Quileute Tribes. The specific details of locations of the agreed to Special Management Areas (SMA), and the dates they are closed to non-tribal fishers are provided below.

The harvest management plan with the Quileute Tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15th prior to opening the state fishery north of Destruction Island. Weather and fishery data have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers and we agree that the 20 fishable day criteria have been met.

As a result:

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and the US Canada border will open at 12:01 am, January 15, 2014.**
- A **64-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am January 12, 2014.
- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on January 14, 2014.
- Temporary pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach will be removed at 8:00 am January 12, 2014.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the management measures described below before you begin your fishing operations and stay informed relative to additional changes.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:

Quinault:

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 15, 2014. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until 8:00 am on May 1, 2014.

The Quinault **primary SMA** is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. – 124°20.70' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. – 124°34.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°11.20' W. Lon.

A Quinault **secondary SMA** (SSMA) will be established on 8:00 am May 1, 2014 to include the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°20.00' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°32.40' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°11.20' W. Lon.

When the area between Split Rock and Raft River opens, state fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area. Specific details regarding SMA openings and pot limits will be made available prior to opening.

Quileute:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 15, 2014 in the area from Destruction Island to U.S. Canadian border. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2014.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat - 124°40.40' W. Long.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat - 124°49.00' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: (Destruction Island); 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124° 24.43 W. Long.

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2014, through May 31, 2014. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 15, 2014 in the area between Destruction Island and U.S. Canadian border and will remain closed for 30-days. This area is closed through February 14, 2014.

There will be a 200-pot limit in the SMA for the first 30-days following the opening of the SMA to state fishers. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15N. to 48°19.50N. east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner; Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner; 48°19.50' N. Lat. – 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner; 48°02.15' N. Lat. – 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner; 48°02.15' N. Lat. – 124°41.00' W. Long.

FAIR START PROVISIONS:

Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-52-036) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 15, 2014 are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

Fair Start Provisions:

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-52-036) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on January 25, 2014**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to U.S. - Canadian Border:** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-52-036) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and U.S. - Canadian border at **8:00 am on February 19, 2014.**
- **WAC 220-52-036 Definition—Commercial crab fishing:** “Commercial crab fishing” means any taking, fishing, use, or operation of gear to fish for crab for commercial purposes, and includes the possession of crab on the water for commercial purposes, and the landing or initial delivery of crab for commercial purposes.

Other Requirements:

- a. Vessels not designated on a coastal Dungeness crab fishery license are permitted to transport or deploy up to 250 pots during the pre-soak period. The primary operator or the alternate operator of the vessel associated with the pots being transported must be aboard the vessel while they are being deployed.

- b. All license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- c. Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling 360-581-3337, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situation will require notification:
 - i. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
- d. A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets through February 19, 2014.
- e. WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.

Thank-you to the Coastal Dungeness crab Advisory Board and industry members who provided valuable input and support during this year's test fishing and season setting process. I hope you have a safe and prosperous 2013-14 crab season.

Sincerely,



Heather Reed
Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator

cc: Phil Anderson
Michele Culver
Ron Warren
Kirt Hughes
Dan Ayres