

Summer Crab Fishery Management Measures

- A. Summer management period is July 1 – September 15
- B. Beginning on July 1 a 2,500 pound trip limit is implemented.
- C. WDFW will consider shell condition data collected inseason to determine if it is necessary to close the area west of four miles to protect soft shelled crab located in deeper water. The 4-mile line will be implemented if sufficient shell condition data indicates that the majority of crabs sampled in that area are soft-shelled.
- D. Beginning the third week of June, WDFW will begin bi-weekly crab condition testing using ride-along trips with consenting commercial fishers. Also beginning the third week in June, WDFW will begin collecting dockside crab condition data at crab buying facilities. The condition sampling will be consistent with the summer crab condition sampling protocols listed in Appendix B.
- E. If any single shell condition test conducted during a ride-along trip indicates that less than 50% of the male crabs sampled are grades 1A and/or 1B **OR**, if any three shell condition tests conducted during random dockside sampling within a two week period as described in Appendix B indicates that less than 75% of the crab sampled are grades 1A and 1B, WDFW will impose a 1,200 pound weekly landing limit.
- F. WDFW will continue to test the shell condition of crab both at dockside buying facilities and on shipboard ride along trips.
- G. WDFW will continue to test the shell condition of crab both at dockside buying facilities and on shipboard ride along trips.
- H. If any single shell condition test conducted during a ride-along trip indicates that more than 50% of the male crabs sampled are grades 1A and/or 1B **AND**, if any three shell condition tests conducted during random dockside sampling within a two week period following the implementation of the 1,200 pound landing limit indicate that more than 75% of the crab in the sample are grades 1A and 1B, WDFW will increase the weekly landing limit to 2,500 pounds.
- I. WDFW will continue to test the shell condition of crab both at dockside buying facilities and on shipboard ride along trips.
- J. WDFW will continue to test the shell condition of crab both at dockside buying facilities and on shipboard ride along trips.