



State of Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to **remind** fishers of the line marking requirement that will be in effect during the upcoming 2020-21 coastal Dungeness crab season.

Line marking specific for Washington will be required effective December 1, 2020 and will remain in place year-round after that. The new rule requires each shellfish pot used in the Washington coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery must be rigged with line that is marked with 12 inches of red in at least two places. At a minimum, 12 inches of line must be marked in red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot. Please see the attached illustration for clarification.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=220-340-430>

Dual licensed fishers must also be aware that *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife* has recently implemented a rule that **prohibits** fishers from fishing commercial Dungeness crab gear in Oregon waters with a line mark that is required by any other state or federal fishery.

635-005-0480 Dungeness Crab Buoy Tag and Gear Marking Requirements;

It is *unlawful* for commercial purposes to:

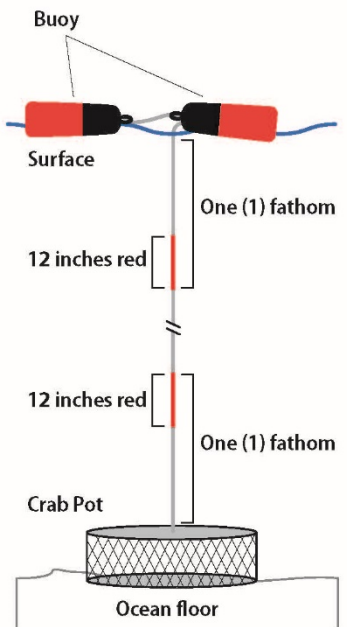
(3) Use commercial Dungeness crab gear in the Columbia River or Pacific Ocean with a line mark that is required for any state or federal fishery, other than the Oregon Dungeness crab fishery, operating in the U.S. West Coast EEZ, or the state waters of Washington, Oregon, or California.

You can find information on the new regulation here:

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/whale_entanglement.asp

License owners and operators are also reminded that new rules require them to use only the amount of line reasonably necessary to compensate for ocean conditions. The purpose of this rule is to reduce slack line at the surface which can increase the risk of entangling whales.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=220-340-430>



ALSO, We want to be sure you are aware of new [The USDA Seafood Trade Relief Program](https://www.farmers.gov/Seafood). U.S. fisherman impacted by retaliatory tariffs, may qualify for funding through this USDA (federal) relief program. WDFW is not involved in this program, however, information on how to apply can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/Seafood>