



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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UPDATE

March 16, 2021

It has come to our attention that the approaching poor weather and ocean conditions may make it difficult for some vessels to move gear north of Point Chehalis before March 20. **WDFW will allow for later hold inspections on a case-by-case basis – through March 26, 2021.** Note:

- To arrange a later appointment, contact Sgt. Brian Alexander by email at brian.alexander@dfw.wa.gov
- All gear must be moved first and in the next available weather window.
- All stuck gear that is south of Point Chehalis must also be pumped and removed.

March 10, 2021

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

New Hold Inspections Available Beginning March 18 / Only if Requested

WDFW will conduct new hold inspections on request to allow the following:

- Any WA license holder with an “EVS” hold inspection certificate who wishes to switch from selling only to an evisceration market and set gear in any area north of Point Chehalis), outside of tribal SMA’s), may request a new hold inspection certificate designated “NOR” to fish for any market (including live and whole cooked). This hold inspection certificate will continue to prohibit setting gear south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and/or inside Grays Harbor.
- Prior to receiving a new hold inspection, license holders or alternate operators **must first**.
 - ✓ **Move all gear set** south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and/or inside Grays Harbor out of these areas and **sign an affidavit attesting** that they have done so.

- ✓ **Present a recent Fish Ticket** showing all crab was sold to an evisceration market.
 - ✓ Have **NO CRAB** onboard their vessel.
 - ✓ **Surrender** their previously issued 2021 Hold Inspection Certificate to WDFW
- Or, any vessel holder with a “NOR” hold inspection certificate who wishes to switch from selling to any market, including live and whole cooked and not having **any gear** set south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.18 N. Lat) and/or inside Grays Harbor, may request a new hold inspection certificate designated “EVS” and selling only to an evisceration market and set gear in any area outside of tribal SMA’s.
 - Prior to receiving a new hold inspection, these license holders or alternate operators **must first:**
 - ✓ **Surrender** their previously issued 2021 Hold Inspection Certificate to WDFW.
 - ✓ **Understand that any crab on board at the time of the hold inspection can only be sold to an evisceration market.**
 - Vessels and licenses that started their season south of Cape Falcon prior to the time the area north of Cape Falcon opened will be allowed to begin fishing north of Cape Falcon on March 18, 2021. All dual licensed boats with an Oregon hold inspection can only use that certificate to land crab into EVISCERATION markets. All such vessels can also request a new WA hold inspection if they choose to fish for live or whole cooked markets. Vessels that started their season in California will all need a WA hold inspection certificate and make the market/area decisions listed above.

All new hold inspections will occur only on March 18, 19, and 20 between 9 am and 3 pm. **YOU MUST SCHEDULE A SPECIFIC TIME** to have WDFW conduct a hold inspection to receive a new hold inspection certificate. To schedule a time during the dates and hours listed above, please EMAIL Sgt. Brian Alexander at brian.alexander@dfw.wa.gov and provide several possible times.

Fishers should expect that no new hold inspections will occur for at least 30 days. This provision is in place to strengthen enforcement of evisceration requirements and protect public health. WDFW will consider offering new hold inspections sooner only after getting guidance from WDOH that toxin levels warrant a change. Please note, the latest domoic acid levels in WA crab show levels that remain above the action level both south and north of Klipsan Beach and inside Grays Harbor. We do not expect any changes in areas requiring evisceration for the foreseeable future.

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 notice or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.