



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

Contact: Jamie Fuller 360-580-0875

February 2, 2023

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Additional information on the Special Management Areas north of Destruction Island

This notice includes details on the boundaries for the Special Management Areas (SMA) that will be in place north of Destruction Island per the terms of the State-Quileute, State-Makah, and State Hoh Harvest Management Plans. SMAs are an important component of state-tribal management plans, these areas will be closed to state fishers effective February 3, 2023. When fair start provisions allow for fishers to move to areas that have been delayed, all non-tribal fishers will be prohibited from fishing in those areas until the dates provided below. Note, the SMA's in place per the Quinault and Quileute management plans will support participants of the Hoh Tribe in the areas where their U&A's overlap.

The season opening dates, gear set periods, and hold inspection dates as announced in the January 18, 2023 Industry Notice are provided again below. **The gear set period and season opening dates remain as originally noticed. All crab retained and brought in for delivery, including any weigh back, zero value product, or take home, must be weighed and reported on a fish ticket.**

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to non-treaty fishers beginning at 8:00 AM February 3, 2023. The SMA is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until 8:00 AM March 5, 2023.

The SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15' N' Lat. to 48°19.50' N' Lat. 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. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°50.45' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. 124°41.00' W. Lon.

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 will be required to pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Quileute SMA:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM February 3, 2023. The SMA is schedule to remain closed to state fishers until 8:00 AM, May 1, 2023.

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:

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

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023. Fishers will be required to pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Quinault SMA:

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to non-treaty fishers beginning at 8:00 AM February 3, 2023. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to non-treaty fishers until further notice.

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.

STATE SEASON OPENING NORTH OF KLIPSAN BEACH:

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and US – Canada Border will open at 9:00 am, February 6, 2023.**
- A **73-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am February 3, 2023.
- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on February 5, 2023. To arrange a hold inspection at a later time, contact Sgt Brian Alexander at 360-580-6200.
- Temporary pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach will be removed at 8:00 am February 3, 2023.

FAIR START PROVISIONS:

Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before February 3, 2023, 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 220-340-400) 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 February 16, 2023**

- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to Destruction Island (47°40.50):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) 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 Destruction Island at **8:00 am on March 13, 2023.**
- **WAC 220-340-400 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 hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until March 13, 2023
- Each crab pot 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. WAC 220-340-430 (6ii)
- Whale entanglements are a serious problem, please implement the recommendations in the Washington Best Practices Guidelines to minimize the risk of entangling marine mammals.
- License owners **MUST** register one unique buoy color scheme per coastal crab license with WDFW. License owners must complete buoy registration before fishing. If you have not registered your buoy for the 2022-23 season, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 to verify your color scheme is available. A new registration app has been developed. It requires that you use a smartphone to take photos of your buoys. To access the registration form visit: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1a6ae9a42a7342d4884f63a089968aa9>. If you do not have a smartphone or are unable to complete the registration, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.
- All commercial crab license holders are required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information is necessary for managing our fishery today and in the future. New logbooks will be available during Hold Inspections or by calling WDFW at 360-249-4628.
- 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 Sgt. Brian Alexander, 360-580-6200, 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 situations will require notification.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.
- A **Washington Gear Transfer Permit** issued by WDFW is required to transport through Washington State waters, crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state. Contact Sgt. Brian Alexander at 360-580-6200 for issuance of this permit.

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- WDFW would like your help, please call the WDFW Police Dispatch WildCom Center at (360) 902-2936 (*option 1*) 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 Jamie Fuller at (360) 580-0875.