



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

April 19, 2023

QUILEUTE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA OPENS TO STATE FISHERS

The Quileute SMA, in the area described below, opens to state fishers at 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:

- Northeast Corner: (Cape Johnson): 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 must pre-register with WDFW **twenty-four hours** prior to deploying gear in this area. Fishers can pre-register by one of the following methods:

- E-mail to Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875.

Makah:

We want to remind you that the Makah SMA, in the area between Destruction Island and the US/Canada Border, is open to state fishers.

The Makah 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.

Fishers must pre- register with WDFW **twenty-four hours** prior to deploying gear in this area. Fishers can pre- register by one of the following methods:

- E-mail to Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov; or
- Telephone call to Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875.

Please note that the following SMA remains CLOSED to state fishers.

Quinault:

The Quinault **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until further notice.

The Quinault **secondary SMA** (SSMA) is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until further notice. The SSMA is defined by the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°20.70' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°36.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°06.00' N. Lat. 124°27.10' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 47°06.00' N. Lat. 124°11.00' W. Lon.

SUMMER POT LIMIT

We also want to remind you of the reduced pot limit starting May 1, 2023, for the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery. The intent of this requirement is to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial crab gear by reducing the number of lines in the water during the peak time when humpback whales are present off the Washington coast.

Effective May 1 through September 15

- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 500 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 330 pots.
- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 200 pots.

Any gear deployed on or after May 1, 2023, must have summer buoy tags attached. Please remember to remove your regular season tag by May 1st and leave only the summer tag attached to your buoy setup. Any state licensed crab gear left in the ocean after April 30, 2023, without summer buoy tags attached will be subject to gear recovery.