



State of Washington

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

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June 14, 2023

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### WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

#### SUMMER FISHERY MANAGEMENT:

With the intent of protecting crab in the soft-shelled condition, the following provisions of the Coastal Dungeness Crab Summer Fishery Management Plan will be in effect at 12:01 A.M. July 2, 2023, through the end of the season:

**It is unlawful for any person licensed to fish under a Dungeness crab-coastal fishery license to possess or land crab in excess of 2,500 pounds during any weekly catch accounting period (Sunday through Saturday). See the list of catch accounting periods below.**

Any crab taken prior to July 2, 2023, and not landed before 11:59 P.M., July 1, 2023, become part of the July 2 through July 8, 2023, accounting period catch.

#### Weekly Catch Accounting Periods:

July 2 – July 8, 2023  
July 9 – July 15, 2023  
July 16 – July 22, 2023  
July 23 – July 29, 2023  
July 30 – August 5, 2023

August 6 – August 12, 2023  
August 13 – August 19, 2023  
August 20– August 26, 2023  
August 27 – September 2, 2023  
September 3 – September 9, 2023  
September 10 – September 15, 2023

#### MORE INFORMATION:

Weekly trip limits as dictated by the Summer Fishery Management Plan protect Washington State's Dungeness crab resource from handling mortality. Permanent implementation of the 2,500-pound limit on July 1 has been in place since 2015. To avoid confusion, the weekly landing limit will always start on the first Sunday in July. WDFW will continue to collect shell condition data through the remainder of the season both dockside and at-sea, and will take additional measures following the Plan's sampling protocols if large numbers of soft-shelled crab are present.

**WDFW relies on consenting commercial fishers to collect at-sea shell condition data. If you are contacted about scheduling a ride along trip, please do your best to accommodate our request. If at-sea shell condition data cannot be collected as outlined in the Summer Fishery Management Plan, a reduced weekly landing limit will be considered regardless of crab condition.**

More information can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/summer-fishery-management-plan.pdf>