



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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March 22, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Pot limit lifted within the QIN U&A; QIN SSMA remains closed

The Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery opened on February 1, 2024, with a coastwide reduced pot limit. The pot limit reduction outside of the Quinault Indian Nation's (QIN) usual and accustomed fishing area (U&A) was removed on March 2, 2024. This notice is to inform you of following additional management actions that will go into effect at 8:00 AM on March 25, 2024:

- Quinault U&A:** Non-treaty fishers may fish their full complement of pots within the QIN U&A, as defined by the following points with the Western boundary mirroring the coastline no farther than thirty nautical miles from the mainland Pacific coast shoreline at any line of latitude:
 - Northeast Corner: 47°40.10' N. Lat. 124°23.86' W. Lon.
 - Northwest Corner: 47°40.10' N. Lat. 125°08.50' W. Lon.
 - Southwest Corner: 46°53.30' N. Lat. 124°53.88' W. Lon.
 - Southeast Corner: 46°53.30' N. Lat. 124°07.61' W. Lon.
- Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA):** A Quinault secondary SMA (SSMA) will be established. The area that remains closed to state fishers includes the area shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Split Rock (47°24.50) according to the following coordinates:
 - Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°20.00' W. Lon.
 - Northwest Corner: 47°24.50' N. Lat. 124°32.40' W. Lon.
 - Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°25.50' W. Lon.
 - Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°11.20' W. Lon.

There is a 200-pot limit in the area that opens to state fishers between Split Rock (47°24.50) and Raft River (47°28.00) shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve from 8:00 AM on March 25, 2024, through 8:00 AM April 24, 2024. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW twenty-four hours prior to deploying gear in this area by contacting Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or 360-580-0875.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA):

Quileute SMA

The Quileute SMA is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until 8:00 AM, May 1, 2024.

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, 2024 through May 31, 2024. Fishers will be required to pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Makah SMA

The Makah SMA opened to state fishers on March 2, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

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 must preregister with WDFW **twenty-four hours** prior to deploying gear in this area by contacting Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or by telephone at 360-580-0875.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- **Vessels leaving the fishery must submit a departure report to WDFW before turning off their EM system.** Departure reports must contain vessel name, license number, and departure date. Reports can be sent by email to Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov or by text to Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596.
- Each crab pot must be rigged with line that is marked with 12 inches of continuous red in at least two places. At a minimum, 12 inches of continuous 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)
- License owners **MUST** register one unique buoy color scheme per coastal crab license with WDFW. License owners must complete buoy registration **annually** before fishing. If this is your first-time registering buoys for the commercial WA Dungeness crab fishery or you want to change your colors, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 to verify your color scheme is available. Buoy registration must be completed using the WDFW online registration form. It requires that you use a smartphone or tablet to take photos of your buoys. To access the registration form visit: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1a6ae9a42a7342d4884f63a089968aa9>. For questions or assistance, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.
- 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.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or 360-580-0875 or Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066.