



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

April 9, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Adjustment of QIN SSMA Southern Boundary

In accordance with the 2023-24 Dungeness Crab Harvest Management Plan, resource managers and policy makers from the State and Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) evaluate catch to determine the need for in-season measures. To provide the opportunity for the State to achieve harvest sharing goals with the coastal treaty tribes, State and QIN managers have agreed to move the southern boundary of the Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) from Copalis River to Joe Creek. This change will open approximately five additional miles of fishing area to State fishers. State and QIN managers will continue to evaluate harvest sharing and will consider the need for additional measures as the season progresses.

Effective at 8:00 A.M., April 15, 2024, the southern boundary of the Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) will move from Copalis River to Joe Creek. The QIN SSMA remains closed to State fishers until further notice shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of Joe Creek (47°12.25) 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°12.25' N. Lat. 124°27.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47°12.25' N. Lat. 124°12.28' W. Lon.

A 100-pot limit will be in effect in the area now open to State fishers between the Copalis River (47°08.00) and Joe Creek (47°12.25) shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve until further notice. 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.

As a reminder, the area between Split Rock (47°24.50) and Raft River (47°28.00) shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve opened to State fishers on March 25, 2024. A 200-pot limit remains in this area until 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

Effective at 8:00 A.M., May 1, 2024, the Quileute SMA will open to State fishers. State fishers will be subject to a 100-pot limit in the Quileute SMA from 8:00 AM May 1, 2024, until 8:00 AM June 1, 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.

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 coordinates:

- 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.

Makah SMA

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

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.

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.

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.