



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – October 2024

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed an optional October pre-season test fishery for the coastal Dungeness crab fishery. The test fishery was conducted to assess the condition of the crab resource in advance of the 2024-25 season. Data collected included an assessment of crab shell condition and meat recovery.

Sampling within the Westport Test Area was completed on October 22, 2024. The test was conducted in accordance with the Tri-State Coastal Dungeness Crab Revised Pre-Season Testing Protocol, available at the following link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/pre-season-testing-protocols-2024-final.pdf>. Briefly, crab were collected from three stations within the Westport testing area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms at each station. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. WDFW staff also collected shell condition data from the same crab collected from all depths and stations. The results for all stations are summarized below.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
		1A	1B	II	III		
Westport	10/22/24	0.1%	1.3%	98.6%	0%	17.3%	No Test

Definition of shell grades:

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B: slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

Note that only WDFW exercised the option (per the Tri-State Agreement) to conduct an October pre-test. Given historical trends of crab condition improving first within fishing grounds north of Klipsan Beach, only the Westport test fishery was conducted during the pre-test this season. WDFW plans to complete the first round of testing within the Westport and Long Beach test areas by November 15, 2024. Domoic acid testing will be conducted as needed based on harmful algal bloom monitoring efforts.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provide the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

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.