



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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December 6, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Delayed in Washington

Coastal Dungeness crab Tri-State policy representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) have agreed to open the commercial Dungeness crab season south of Cape Falcon, OR to the OR/CA border on December 16, 2024. **Fishery managers have made the decision to delay the opening of the 2024-25 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Cape Falcon, OR (45° 46'00" N. Lat.) to the US/Canada border through at least December 30, 2024.** This decision was based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW that do not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (see below).

Tri-State Dungeness Crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that after the second round of testing, if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 24% south of Cascade Head) a delay is required, and additional testing is conducted before a season opening date can be confirmed. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests to be completed by December 22, 2024.

CDFW is in the process of assessing marine life entanglement risk for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery using the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) and monitoring domoic acid levels within multiple areas. In the area from Point Arena, CA to the US/Canada border, if any vessel fishes in an area that opens before another area, the vessel is subject to fair start provisions. Fair start provisions require that vessels beginning their season in an area that opens earlier than others will be prohibited from fishing in a delayed area for at least 30 days after the delayed area opens.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

The stations in the Westport and Long Beach test areas were completed on December 2, 2024. 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	12/2/24	6.5%	20.2%	73.3%	0%	21.9%	< 3
Long Beach	12/2/24	1.1%	21.3%	77.6%	0%	19.9%	No Test

COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date are summarized below and can also be found at this link: https://www.psmfc.org/crab/2024-2025%20files/Tri-StatePreseasonCoastwideResults_2024_master.pdf

2024 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA							
* Date is the date the pots were pulled							
Test Area	Number of pots	Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2	
		Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
Washington							
Northern	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Westport	54	10/23/24	17.3%^	NT	NT	12/2/24	21.9%^
Long Beach	54	NT	NT	11/7/24	17.0%	12/2/24	19.9%
Oregon							
Astoria (50-A)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	20.7%	12/2/24	23.2%
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	21.5%	12/2/24	24.3%
Pacific City (50-C)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	21.3%	12/2/24	24.6%
Newport North (50-D)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	28.4%	NT	NT
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	27.1%	NT	NT
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	25.3%**	NT	NT
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36	NT	NT	11/16/24	24.1%^	NT	NT
Port Orford (50-K)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	23.6%	12/2/24	26.5%
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/6/24	25.4%	NT	NT
California							
Crescent City	36	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Trinidad	36	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Eureka	36	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)							
Bodega Bay	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
San Francisco	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT

^Crabs retained in vessel hold overnight before offload

** Crab collected from less than total pots set in area H (15 pots)

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors that work cooperatively with WDFW to successfully complete this important work.

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.