



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

December 23, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Delayed in Washington

On December 23, 2024, 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) agreed to delay the opening of the 2024-25 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from Cape Falcon, OR (45° 46' 0" N. Lat.) to the US/Canada border until at least January 15, 2025. The section of Oregon coast from Cape Falcon to OR/CA Border opened December 16, 2024. Vessels that participate in the Dungeness crab fishery south of Cape Falcon, OR may only deliver into the ports of Ilwaco and Chinook until further notice. Participants in the area south of Cape Falcon, OR should note ODFW closed area transit allowance requirements if delivering into these WA ports.

The decision to delay is based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW that indicate shell condition and meat recovery within the Long Beach Test Area do not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria as defined in the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols (23% north of Cascade Head and 24% south of Cascade Head). WDFW will be exercising the option to conduct a fourth test within the Long Beach Test Area before January 7, 2025, and will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible. If this area meets 23% meat recovery in a fourth round of testing, the area from Cape Falcon, OR to Klipsan Beach, WA (including Willapa Bay) will open January 15th. WDFW will publish additional details around the season openings in a subsequent notice.

WASHINGTON TEST RESULTS

The stations in the Westport test area were completed on December 16, 2024 and in the Long Beach test area on December 20, 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	12/16/24	0.7%	35.9%	63.4%	0%	23.2%	No Test
Long Beach	12/20/24	4.6%	28.8%	66.6%	0%	22.1%	No Test

COASTWIDE TEST RESULTS

Coastwide test meat recovery results to date are summarized below and can be found at this link:

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		Round 3	
		Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %	Date*	Meat Recovery %
Washington									
Northern	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Westport	54	10/23/24	17.3%^	NT	NT	12/2/24	21.9%^	12/16/24	23.2%^
Long Beach	54	NT	NT	11/7/24	17.0%	12/2/24	19.9%	12/20/24	22.1%
Oregon									
Astoria (50-A)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	20.7%	12/2/24	23.2%	NT	NT
Garibaldi (50-B)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	21.5%	12/2/24	24.3%	NT	NT
Pacific City (50-C)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	21.3%	12/2/24	24.6%	NT	NT
Newport North (50-D)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	28.4%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Newport South (50-E and 50-F)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	27.1%	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay North (50-G and 50-H)	36	NT	NT	11/7/24	25.3%**	NT	NT	NT	NT
Coos Bay South (50-I and 50-J)	36	NT	NT	11/16/24	24.1%^	NT	NT	NT	NT
Port Orford (50-K)	18	NT	NT	11/7/24	23.6%	12/2/24	26.5%	NT	NT
Brookings (50-L)	18	NT	NT	11/6/24	25.4%	NT	NT	NT	NT
California									
Crescent City	36	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Trinidad	36	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Eureka	36	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)									
Bodega Bay	n/a	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
San Francisco	n/a	NT	NT	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.