



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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January 27, 2024

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening from Klipsan Beach, WA to US/Canada Border

The Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery will open from Klipsan Beach, WA to the US/Canada Border (excluding Special Management Areas), including Grays Harbor to state fishers on February 11, 2025. Details for the opening are as follows:

- 73-hour presoak begins (setting gear): 8:00 AM on February 8, 2025
- Hold Inspections: beginning at 12:00 PM on February 10, 2025
- Start date (pulling gear): 9:00 AM on February 11, 2025
- Pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach, WA will be removed at 8:00 am February 8, 2025.

The season opening between Point Chehalis, WA and the US/Canada Border was made based on the terms of harvest management plans and in coordination with tribal co-managers. The State-Quinault Harvest Management Plan for the 2024-2025 season uses a sliding scale based on landings during the first 31 days of the Quinault fishery to determine the head-start for the Quinault fleet. In accordance with this agreement, co-managers agreed to a 49-day delay of the state fishery in the area between Pt. Chehalis and Destruction Island, including Grays Harbor, resulting in an opener on February 11, 2025.

The season opening north of Destruction Island was made in accordance with the State-Quileute Harvest Management Plan. The opening north of Destruction Island is based on a provision in the State-Quileute Plan that ensures there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15, prior to opening the state season north of Destruction Island. WDFW and Quileute managers agreed that the fishable day criteria have been satisfied. To facilitate the operation of an orderly fishery, WDFW managers have made the decision to align the opening north of Destruction Island with the north of Klipsan opener on February 11, 2025.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING:

All vessels participating in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery must have a qualifying electronic monitoring (EM) system installed, activated, and transmitting data to Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission (PSMFC) prior to setting gear on February 8th.

- **Vessels must purchase a new subscription for the 2024-25 season.** Information on purchasing a data subscription can be found at: <https://www.archipelago.ca/fishvue-lime-washington>
- After purchasing a subscription, all vessels are required to submit an activation report to WDFW. Activation reports can be submitted via the electronic docusign form or a printable form submitted

by email or mail. The online or printable form can be found at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/electronic-monitoring#activation>

More information on EM can be found at this link:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/electronic-monitoring>

For questions or issues about electronic monitoring, contact Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596 or Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA):

Quinault SMA:

The Quinault primary SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM February 8, 2025. The primary SMA is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until further notice.

The Quinault primary SMA is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Raft River): 47° 28.00' N. Lat. 124° 20.70' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47° 28.00' N. Lat. 124° 34.00' 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.

The Quileute SMA

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM February 8, 2025. The SMA is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until 8:00 AM, May 1, 2025.

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, 2025 through May 31, 2025. Fishers will be required to pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The Makah SMA

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM February 8, 2025. The SMA is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until 8:00 AM March 13, 2025.

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 will be required to pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

FAIR START PROVISIONS:

- **Klipsan Beach (46° 28.00) to Cape Falcon, OR (45° 46.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters between Point Arena, CA and Cape Falcon, OR before this area opens will not be allowed to fish in this area until **8:00 am on February 14, 2025**.
- **Klipsan Beach (46° 28.00) to Oysterville (46° 33.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on February 21, 2025**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to US/Canada border:** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and the US/Canada border at **8:00 am on March 18, 2025**.
- **WAC 220-340-400 Definition—Commercial crab fishing:** “Commercial crab fishing” means any taking, fishing, use, or operation of gear to fish for crab for commercial purposes and includes the possession of crab on the water for commercial purposes, and the landing or initial delivery of crab for commercial purposes.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until **March 18, 2025**.
- Each crab pot must be rigged with line that is marked in two places with 12 inches of red, no more than one fathom from the main buoy and no more than one fathom from the pot. [WAC 220-340-430](#)
- License owners or alternate operators **MUST** register one unique buoy color scheme **annually** using the WDFW online registration form. Buoy registration must be completed before fishing. If you are a new participant in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 to verify your color scheme is available. To access the registration form visit: <http://qrcodes.pro/jDEArX> . If you do not have a smartphone or are unable to complete the registration, contact Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov.
- Vessels that participated in the south of Klipsan opener are required to keep buoys tag in excess of the vessels pot limit on board the vessel.
 - Vessels are permitted to load pots with buoy tags attached in excess of the vessels pot limit no more than 48-hours prior to pot limits being lifted.
- Barging of crab pots by undesignated vessels:
 - The vessel can only deploy during the 73-hour period immediately preceding the season opening date and during the 48-hour period immediately following the season opening date.
 - The undesignated vessel can carry no more than 250 crab pots at any one time.
 - The primary or alternate operator on the license associated with the gear is on board the undesignated vessel while the gear is being deployed.
- Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas. Notification is to be made 24-hours prior by calling Sgt. Brian Alexander 360-580-6200, and reporting the vessel name, operator name, estimated amount of crab to be delivered in pounds, and the estimated date, time, and location of delivery. The following situations will require notification.

- Vessels transiting north of 47°00.00 N. Lat with crab caught south of Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay before **9:00 am on February 11, 2025**.
- A Washington Gear Transfer Permit issued by WDFW is required to transport through Washington State waters, crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state. Contact Sgt. Brian Alexander 360-580-6200 for issuance of this permit.

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