



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

April 22, 2025

## WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

### SMA Changes and Pot Limits Take Effect May 1

In response to the closure of the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) Dungeness crab fishery, the Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) will open to state fishers starting May 1, 2025. The Quileute Special Management Area (SMA) will also open to state fishers on May 1. More information about each opener can be found below.

Please note that the timing of these openers aligns with the **summer pot limit reduction** that goes into effect coastwide each season on May 1 that lowers the number of crab pots to **330 for vessels with 500-pot licenses** and **200 for vessels with 300-pot licenses**. Each newly opened SMA will also be subject to a pot limit for the time periods described below. More information about the summer pot limit and the temporary pot reductions within each newly opened SMA area can be found in the sections below.

#### Quinault Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA)

The QIN Secondary Special Management Area (SSMA) will open to state fishers **at 8:00 A.M. on May 1, 2025**. State fishers will be subject to a **200-pot limit in the QIN SSMA** from 8:00 AM May 1, 2025, until 8:00 AM June 1, 2025. Fishers not already registered to fish in the QIN SMA must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area by contacting Jamie Fuller at [Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-580-0875. **Fishers that previously registered to fish in the portion of the QIN SMA that opened on March 21, DO NOT need to register again.** The QIN SSMA is defined by 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° 28.50' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47° 12.25' N. Lat. 124° 19.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47° 12.25' N. Lat. 124° 12.28' W. Lon.

**Tribal gear recovery efforts are currently underway in the QIN SSMA. Please be advised that it is unlawful to tamper with, fish, or possess tribal gear; provide adequate distance when setting pots within this area to ensure gear recovery can proceed uninterrupted.**

#### Quileute Special Management Area (SMA)

Effective at **8:00 A.M. on May 1, 2025**, the Quileute SMA will open to State fishers. State fishers will be subject to a **100-pot limit in the QUIL SMA** from 8:00 AM May 1, 2025, until 8:00 AM June 1, 2025. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area by contacting Jamie Fuller at [Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-580-0875. The Quileute SMA is defined by 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.

### **Summer Pot Limits**

We also want to remind you of the reduced summer pot limit starting May 1, 2025, for the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery. The intent of this requirement is to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial crab gear by reducing the number of lines in the water during the peak time when humpback whales are present off the Washington coast.

### **Effective May 1 through September 15**

- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 500 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 330 pots.
- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 200 pots.

Any gear deployed on or after May 1, 2025, must have summer buoy tags attached. Please remember to remove your regular season tag by May 1st and leave only the summer tag attached to your buoy setup. Any state licensed crab gear left in the ocean after April 30, 2025, without summer buoy tags attached will be subject to gear recovery.

### **14-day Landing Rule**

Beginning May 1 through September 15, it is unlawful to leave Dungeness crab pots deployed in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Washington for more than 14 consecutive days without making a Dungeness crab landing. This gear tending requirement contributes to efforts to reduce entanglements with marine mammals and ensures that gear not being actively fish is removed from the water during the period when whales are more likely to be present off the Washington Coast. For more information on this rule or other coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery rules, please visit the rules and regulations page on our website at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal>

### **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](mailto: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** using the WDFW online registration form. 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](mailto:Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov).

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Jamie Fuller at [Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-580-0875 or Matt George at [Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-640-1066.