

# Amending Coastal Dungeness Crab Rules

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting  
August 4-5, 2017



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# Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Overview



- **2012-2016 Average Ex-Vessel Revenue: \$36M**
- **Effort Limitations: 223 Licenses, 200 Active**
  - **Pot Limits: 300 or 500 Based on Historical Landings (Buoy Tags)**
  - **Vessel Length Restrictions**
  - **Trip Limits Beginning July 1 for Softshell Conservation**
- **Fishery Occurs from about 5 fms to 60 fms**
- **Season: Dec 1 – Sept 15**
- **Tri-State Agreement with OR and CA**
- **Annual Harvest Agreements with Coastal Treaty Tribes**

# Purpose and Need for Rule Changes

Revisions to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations are needed to:

- Promote efficiency and reduce costs for fishers,
- Improve enforceability of existing regulations, and
- Streamline administrative processes

## *While*

- Continuing to achieve the primary objectives of the regulations consistent with their original intent.

# WAC 220-340-430: Replacement Buoy Tags

## Purpose and Need

- **Improve enforceability**
  - Recent investigations show system abuse
- **Streamline administrative process**
  - Current timing varies depending on when fishery opens (driven by crab quality, public health, and tribal agreements)

## Effect

- ~82% of all license holders do not use replacement tags
- Number of replacement tags available to each license holder would be reduced from 10% to 5%
- Process would include specific dates

# WAC 220-340-440: Transporting Out-of-State Gear

## Purpose and Need

- **Promote efficiency and reduce costs to fishers**
  - Activity currently prohibited—helps ensure fairness during gear setting period and maintain integrity of pot limits
  - Dual-licensed vessels in Westport truck gear to Ilwaco
  - 2016-17 fishery season delay – gear storage issue

## Effect

- ~15-20 dual-licensed vessels in Westport
- Require advance notification and WDFW permit with gear location reporting (consistent with logbook requirements)

# Proposed Next Steps

- Public comment period open through Aug 5
- Requesting preliminary approval at this meeting
- Based on public input, may recommend revisions for Commission consideration via conference call
- If not, then will confirm no changes and file CR-103



# *Questions or Comments?*

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.

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Commission Meeting Presentation