



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE
SEASON OPENING DELAY

A decision has been made by the Directors of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to delay the opening of the 2013-14 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from the Oregon-California border north until at least December 16, 2013.

This decision is based on crab condition tests conducted by agency staff in Washington and Oregon which shows that some tests do not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria. Testing is still underway in northern California, the results and decision on the opening from Point Arena, CA to the Oregon California border will be provided on Monday, November 25, 2013.

The newly revised Tri-State Dungeness crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that after the first round of testing, if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 25% south of Cascade Head) a second test is required. Note that the revised testing protocols specify that a minimum of 10 days must elapse between tests. Washington was unable to meet that 10-day criteria and still provide sufficient notification to industry regarding the opening. Additionally, given the low meat recovery rates in these test areas, it was decided that allowing for more time for crab to fill out prior to the second test is appropriate.

A second round of testing will be conducted in Washington and Oregon in early December with a target date for an announcement to industry regarding the opening or need for additional testing by December 7th.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provided the key cooperation needed to allow the Washington testing to be conducted successfully.