



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

**Season Opening Delayed In Washington and Oregon
California, North of Point Arena to Open December 1, 2013**

On Friday November 22, 2013 the Directors of 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 2013-14 Coastal Dungeness crab fishery from the Oregon-California border north until at least December 16, 2013. This decision was based on crab condition tests conducted by WDFW and ODFW which showed that some test areas do not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria.

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) additional testing is required. The 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. Additional tests in Oregon were also not completed.

A second round of testing will be conducted in Washington and Oregon in early December. WDFW and ODFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming tests.

Yesterday, the CDFW Director decided to open the area between Point Arena, California and the Oregon-California border on December 1, 2013 with a gear set period beginning November 28, 2013. CDFW's news release states; "*Despite incomplete testing data from the Eureka port area, data collected on Nov. 9 from this area indicated a high degree of probability that the crab would be ready for harvest by Dec. 1 and no data suggests low quality or soft-shell conditions.*" More details regarding the northern California can be found at: <http://www.psmfc.org/crab/>.

Coast-wide test results to date are found in the attached table.

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

2013 Preseason Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA

	Optional Early Round		Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
Test Area	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %	Proposed Set Date	Meat Recovery %
Washington								
Northern	no test	no test	11/6/13	26.4	no test	no test	no test	no test
Westport	10/21/13	20.9	11/6/13	23.1	no test	no test	no test	no test
Long Beach	10/28/13	21.0	11/11/13	21.8	no test	no test	12/2/2013	
Oregon								
Astoria	no test	no test	11/5/13	21.4	no test	no test	12/2/2013	
Garibaldi	no test	no test	11/10/13	25.4	no test	no test	no test	no test
Newport	no test	no test	11/6/13	24.4	no test	no test	12/2/2013	
Charleston	no test	no test	11/6/13	28.2	no test	no test	no test	no test
Floras Creek*	no test	no test	11/6/13	27.2	no test	no test	no test	no test
Port Orford*	no test	no test	11/6/13	24.9	no test	no test	no test	no test
Brookings	no test	no test	11/6/13	23.9	11/22/2013	24.7	no test	no test
California								
Crescent City	10/29/13	24.5	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test
Trinidad	no test	no test	11/9/13	25.3	11/22/2013	26.4	no test	no test
Eureka	10/28/13	23.2	11/9/13	24.4	no test	no test	no test	no test
Ft. Bragg	10/28/13	25.8	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test	no test
District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)								
Bodega Bay	no test	no test	11/1/13	24.6	no test	no test	no test	no test
San Fransico	no test	no test	11/6/13	24.4	no test	no test	no test	no test
Washington /QIN (not bound by Tri-State)								
Sealion Rock	no test	no test	11/15/13	23.8	no test	no test	no test	no test
Westport/Buoy 3	no test	no test	11/15/13	22.8	11/22	25.2	no test	no test