



State of Washington  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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

June 5, 2015

Contact: Dan Ayres 360-249-4628 (ext. 209)

**WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE**

**IMMEDIATE CLOSURE**

**Effective immediately**, WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations:

**The coastal waters between the Washington/Oregon border (46°15.00) and Point Chehalis (46°53.18), including the Columbia River and Willapa Bay are CLOSED to the harvest and possession of Dungeness crab.**

This action is a result of increasing levels of domoic acid in recent Dungeness crab samples. These levels now exceed the closure criteria established by the Washington Department of Health.

All crab gear must be removed from the area between the Washington Oregon border and Point Chehalis by 12:01 AM, June 10, 2015. If extenuating circumstances make this impossible for any fisher, you can contact us to request an extension.

**THIS CLOSURE INCLUDES BOTH COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL DUNGENESS CRAB FISHING.**

The area north of Point Chehalis remains open to both commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fishing. Vessels that participate in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery in the area north of Point Chehalis or south of the WA/OR border may possess crab for delivery into Washington ports south of Point Chehalis (46°53.18), provided the crab were taken north of Point Chehalis (46°53.18) or south of the WA/OR border.

Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through closed areas.

- Notification is to be made 24-hours prior to entering the area north of the Washington/Oregon border (46°15.00) or south of Point Chehalis (46°53.18) by calling 360-581-3337, 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.