



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

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

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

IMMEDIATE CLOSURE
Extension of Date Gear Must Be Removed

Effective June 5, 2015, WDFW has implemented 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 includes all of Catch Areas 60A-2; 60C; 60D.

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.

Because of poor ocean conditions, the date when gear must be removed is being extended.

All crab gear must be removed from the area between the Washington Oregon border and Point Chehalis by **12:01 AM, June 17, 2015**. If extenuating circumstances make this impossible for any fisher, you can contact Captain Dan Chadwick at 360-581-3337 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. This includes 59A-1; 59A-2; 60A-1; 60B. 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.