



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Region Six • 48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 249-4628 • FAX (360) 664-0689

August 28, 2015

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

**IMMEDIATE RE-OPENING OF CRAB FISHING BETWEEN
POINT CHEHALIS AND THE QUEETS RIVER**

Effective immediately, WDFW is implementing the following change to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations: **The coastal waters between the Point Chehalis (46°53.18) and US / Canada Border including the Grays Harbor are OPEN to the harvest and possession of Dungeness crab.**

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

- The fishery will close as scheduled on September 15, 2015.
 - All crab gear must be removed from the water by 11:59 pm, September 15, 2015.
- The Summer Fishery Management Plan (Plan) remains in place.
 - The 2,500 pound weekly landing limit is in effect.
 - WDFW will continue shell condition testing at the dock and during ride along trips.
 - If sampling results indicate that soft-shelled crab are present WDFW will lower the weekly landing limit as specified in the Plan. (*More information regarding recent changes to the Plan can be found at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters/letter_jun24_2015.pdf*)
- The Quinault Secondary Special Management Area remains closed to state fishers in the area shoreward of a line **approximating** the 27-fathom depth curve between the mouth of the Joe Creek (47°12.11) and Split Rock (47°24.50). The following coordinates legally define the area closed to state fishers (the revised SSMA):
 - Northeast Corner (Split Rock): 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°20.00 W. Lon.
 - Northwest Corner: 47°24.50 N. Lat. 124°32.40 W. Lon.
 - Southwest Corner: 47°12.11 N. Lat. 124°27.33 W. Lon.
 - Southeast Corner (Joe Creek): 47°12.11 N. Lat. 124°12.28 W. Lon.

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

Recent Dungeness crab samples show domoic acid levels from this area remain above the closure criteria established by the Washington Department of Health. There is not sufficient time to collect the necessary samples to open this area prior to the closure of the commercial season on September 15, 2015.

Notification to WDFW Enforcement is required when transiting crab through the closed area 24-hours prior to entering the area 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.

For more information about this notice, contact Dan Ayres at 360-249-4628 (ext. 209) or Daniel.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov