



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

January 10, 2017

The Coastal Dungeness Crab fishery will open to state fishers in the area between the Queets River and the U.S./Canada border at 12:01 a.m. January 15, 2017.

The 2016-17 State/Quileute Dungeness Crab Harvest Management plan includes a provision to ensure that there are twenty fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15, prior to opening the state fishery. Weather and fishery data have been evaluated by both WDFW and Quileute Dungeness crab managers and we agree that the twenty fishable day criteria have been met.

In addition, a separate provision in the plan provides a delay of state fishing in the area between the Queets River and Destruction Island based on Quileute landings. Landings through January 9 indicate that an additional delay in this area will not be implemented and the area between Queets and Destruction Island will open to state fishermen on January 15.

As a result:

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border will open at 12:01 a.m. January 15, 2017.**
 - **A 64-hour gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2017.**

As you were previously informed, two Special Management Areas (SMA) will be in place between Destruction Island and the U.S. / Canada border starting at 8:00 a.m. January 12, 2017.

Quileute SMA:

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 12, 2017. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2017.

The Quileute SMA is described as the area from Cape Johnson to Destruction Island shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms according to the following points:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°40.40' W. Long.
- Northwest Corner: 47°58.00' N. Lat. - 124°49.00' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°40.00' W. Long.

- Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47°40.50' N. Lat. - 124°24.43 W. Long.

There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

Makah SMA:

The Makah SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 12, 2017 and will remain closed for 30-days. The Makah SMA will open to state fishers at 8:00 am February 12, 2017.

The Makah SMA is described as the coastal waters between 48°02.15' N. Lat. to 48°19.50' N. Lat., east of a line connecting those points approximating the 25-fathom line according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: Tatoosh Island
- Northwest Corner: 48°19.50' N. Lat. – 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southwest Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. – 124°50.45' W. Long.
- Southeast Corner: 48°02.15' N. Lat. – 124°41.00' W. Long.

There will be a 200-pot limit in the Makah SMA from February 12, 2017 through March 13, 2017. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.