



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

January 10, 2018

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fisher:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with final details relative to the 2017-18 coastal Dungeness crab fishery **including information on the opening of the state fishery north of Klipsan Beach.**

Recall that in our December 21, 2017 letter we explained that this year's State-Quinault Harvest Management Plan takes an approach that uses preliminary catch information from the Quinault fishery to provide insight on crab abundance to inform the number of head-start days. A sliding scale approach was developed that defines crab abundance as high, medium or low based on catch after the first 31 days of the Quinault season.

WDFW and Quinault managers met on January 10, 2018 to review catch data from the first 31 days of the Quinault fishery. Based on that information and the sliding scale agreed to for the 2017-2018 season, Quinault will get a 49-day head start which results in a state season opening in the area between Klipsan Beach and the US/Canada border on January 28, 2018.

In addition, the harvest management plan with the Quileute Tribe includes a provision to ensure that there are 20 fishable days for Quileute fishers between December 1 and January 15th prior to opening the state fishery north of Destruction Island. This provision has been satisfied and the area north of Destruction Island will open concurrently with the area north of Klipsan Beach. The State-Quileute agreement also includes a provisions that guides when the area between the Queets River and Destruction Island is open based on Quileute catch in the entire Quileute U&A. Given low early season catch for Quileute, the area between Queets and Destruction Island will open concurrently with the area north of Klipsan Beach.

**STATE SEASON OPENING NORTH OF KLIPSAN BEACH:**

- **The state coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery between Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) and the US/Canada border will open at 9:00 am, January 28, 2018.**
- **A 73-hour** gear pre-set period will begin at 8:00 am January 25, 2018.

- **Hold inspections** will be conducted starting at noon on January 27, 2018.
- Temporary pot limits in place south of Klipsan Beach will be removed at 8:00 am January 25, 2018.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the management measures described below before you begin your fishing operations and stay informed relative to additional changes.

### **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS:**

#### **Quinault SMA:**

The Quinault **primary SMA** will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 25, 2018. The **primary SMA** is scheduled to remain closed to state fishers until further notice.

The Quinault **primary SMA** is described as the coastal waters shoreward of a line approximating the 27-fathom depth curve between Raft River (47°28.00) and Copalis River (47°08.00) according to the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. – 124°20.70' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. – 124°34.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°25.50' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. – 124°11.20' W. Lon.

#### **Quileute SMA:**

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM January 25, 2018. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2018.

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, 2018 through May 31, 2018. 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 25, 2018 and will remain closed for 30-days. The Makah SMA will open to state fishers at 8:00 am February 25, 2018.

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 25, 2018 through March 28, 2018. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

**FAIR START PROVISIONS:**

Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the waters from Point Arena, California, to Klipsan Beach, Washington, (including Willapa Bay) before January 25, 2018 are subject to the **Fair Start Provisions** described below.

**Fair Start Provisions:**

- **Klipsan Beach (46°28.00) to Oysterville (46°33.00):** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Klipsan Beach opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Klipsan Beach and Oysterville at **8:00 am on February 7, 2018**
- **Oysterville (46°33.00) to the U.S. - Canada Border:** Licenses and vessels designated to those licenses that fish (as defined by WAC 220-340-400) in the fishery between Point Arena, CA and Klipsan Beach, WA, including Willapa Bay, before the area north of Oysterville opens will be allowed to fish in the area between Oysterville and Destruction Island at **8:00 am on March 4, 2018.**
- **WAC 220-340-400 Definition—Commercial crab fishing:** “Commercial crab fishing” means any taking, fishing, use, or operation of gear to fish for crab for commercial purposes, and includes the possession of crab on the water for commercial purposes, and the landing or initial delivery of crab for commercial purposes.

**Other Requirements:**

- Starting in 2018 all crew members must have a WDFW *Annual Commercial Crew License*. This can be done by an individual crewman and is transferable between boats and fisheries. Or, up to two *Undesignated Annual Commercial Crew Licenses* can be purchased by a commercial fishing license holder that will be specific to the vessel. Details can be found at: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/commercial/crewmember\\_licenses.html](https://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/commercial/crewmember_licenses.html) or by calling 360-902-2464 (option#4).
- All commercial crab license holders will be required to carry, complete, and submit logbooks to WDFW. This information will greatly assist us in managing our fishery in the future.
- 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 47°00.00 N. Latitude by calling Capt. Dan Chadwick at 360-4581-3337, 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. The following situations will require notification.
  - a. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Klipsan beach (46°28.00) or Willapa Bay prior to the area north of Klipsan beach opening.
  - b. Vessels transiting north of Grays Harbor with crab caught south of Destruction Island (47°40.50) prior to the area north of Destruction Island opening.
- A **Washington Gear Transfer Permit** issued by WDFW is required to transport through Washington State waters, crab pots or buoys bearing the tags issued by another state. Contact Captain Dan Chadwick at 360-581-3337 for issuance of this permit.
- A hold inspection certificate number is required on all fish tickets until March 4, 2018
- WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement
  - a. WDFW would like your help, please call the coastal crab hotline (360-249-4628, extension 260) if you witness or have information regarding enforcement violations including fishing in closed areas, starting early, pots without buoy tags, etc.

This information and future updates will also be available on WDFW web page:

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<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/>

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "H" and "R".

Heather Reed  
Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator

cc: Michele Culver  
Annette Hoffman  
Dan Ayres