



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

January 22, 2015

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab License Owner:

In November we notified you about proposed revisions to coastal commercial Dungeness crab regulations that were being considered by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The changes were developed to; improve the intent and enforceability of existing rules; minimize lost or derelict crab gear; improve safety for the coastal Dungeness crab fishery; and to allow for a consistent season opening with Oregon.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted the changes at their meeting in December and finalized them during their conference call January 9th. The final regulatory language includes two changes that were not included in the original proposal. The rules as adopted were changed from those proposed to include a September 15th end date to the gear tending provision described in WAC 220-52-049 and to include language in WAC 220-52-045 to describe the target start date for the opening of the coastal commercial Dungeness crab season is December 1 based on the results of pre-season test fishing to determine crab condition. These changes were added to provide more clarity in the rule language.

A copy of the CR-103 and the final regulatory language is available on the WFDW webpage under the Rules Information Center http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/2015/wsr_15-03-091.pdf

If you have any questions about this notice please contact me at 360-249-1202 or Heather.Reed@dfw.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Heather Reed
Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator

cc: Mike Cenci
Michele Culver
Dan Ayres