



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

November 18, 2011

Dear Coastal Dungeness crab Fisher:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information relative to the opening of the 2011-2012 coastal Dungeness crab season. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed two rounds of test fishing, one in October and another in November, as has the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The results of test fisheries conducted according to Tri-State protocols from Washington to northern California show that meat recovery rates do not meet the minimum requirements needed to open the fishery on December 1, 2011 and as such, the Director's of the three agencies agreed to delay the start of the fishery to at least December 15 to allow for additional testing. Following the next round of test fishing, which is scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving, the Director's will either recommend a season opening date or need for further delay, this information will be provided to you no later than December 10, 2011. A summary of the coastwide meat recovery results is enclosed. The Quinault Indian Nation has completed the first round of testing and also plans to conduct another test after the week of November 28.

At the same time that we have been conducting test fisheries and coordinating with Oregon and California, we have also been working to secure management agreements with the Makah and Quileute Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN). At this point in time we have a signed management agreement in place with the Quileute Tribe for the 2011-2012 season. The State-Quileute agreement outlines the same Special Management Area (SMA) structure that has been in place since the 2007-2008 season and includes that the state season will not open north of Destruction Island before January 15, 2012, details are provided below. We are working to finalize an agreement with the Makah Tribe and are in the process of negotiating the terms of a management agreement with QIN. We are committed to working through the remaining issues so that we can implement our fishery regulations for this season based on agreed to management plans.

As you know, many of the specifics of the state management structure depend on the outcome of the test fisheries and the final terms of our State-Tribal harvest management agreements. We will be providing additional information on the state season opening and management measures needed to meet out state tribal harvest sharing obligations as soon these issues are resolved.

**Special Management Areas:**

**Quileute:**

The Quileute SMA will be closed to state fishers beginning immediately upon the opening of the state fishery in the area from Destruction Island to U.S. Canadian border. The state fishery will open north of Destruction Island on January 15, 2012 provided that there have been 20 fishable days between December 1, 2011 and January 15, 2012, according to the criteria described in the 2011-2012 State-Quileute Harvest Management Agreement. The Quileute SMA will open to state fishers beginning at 8:00 AM, May 1, 2012.

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. - 124°40.40' W.
- Northwest Corner; 47°58.00' N. - 124°49.00' W.
- Southwest Corner; 47°40.50' N. - 124°40.00' W.
- Southeast Corner; Destruction Island 47°40.50' N. - 124° 24.43' W.

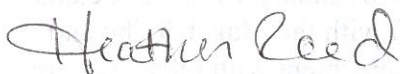
There will be a 100-pot limit in the SMA from May 1, 2010, through May 31, 2012. Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area.

The opening of the SMA can be adjusted by mutual agreement between WDFW and Quileute policy managers.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in the letter or other regulations pertaining to the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, please contact Dan Ayres at (360) 249-4628 ext. 209 or [Dan.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Dan.Ayres@dfw.wa.gov)

Thank-you to the Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board members and others who are providing input as we continue to work through the preseason management process.

Sincerely,



Heather Reed  
Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator

cc: Phil Anderson  
Ron Warren  
Kirt Hughes  
Dan Ayres  
Carol Henry

2011 Pre-Season Coastal Dungeness crab Test Fishery Results for WA, OR and CA

Test Area	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %	Date	Meat Recovery %
<b>Washington</b>						
Northern		No test		No test		
Westport	10/18	17.8	11/10	19.8		
Long Beach	10/17	21.4	11/10	20.5		
<b>Oregon</b>						
Astoria	10/17-19	18.1	11/7	20.0		
Garibaldi	10/17	20.6	11/8	20.3		
Newport	10/17	21.1	11/8	23.4		
Coos Bay	10/17	25.0		No test		
Floras Creek*	10/17	18.0	11/15	23.5		
Port Orford*	10/17	19.1	11/14	20.7		
Brookings	10/17	16.6	11/8	19.9		
<b>California</b>						
Crescent City	10/22	14.9	11/9	19.5		
Trinidad**	10/22	15.4	11/9	17.8		
Eureka	10/22	13.8	11/9	17.6		
Ft. Bragg	-	No test	11/9	23.7		
<b>District 10 (not bound by Tri-State)</b>						
Bodega Bay	10/25	20.5	11/16	23.7		
San Francisco**		No test	11/16	25.0		

- \* Less than 300 pounds of crab was recovered at these stations on 11/8, invalidating the results and triggering the need to re-test on 11/14 and 11/15.
- \*\* No observer on boat

**Note:** The meat recovery criteria needed to open the commercial crab fishery according to Tri-State testing protocols is 23% north of Cascade Head (all of WA, Astoria and Garibaldi, OR) and 25% south of Cascade Head (the remaining OR stations and all of CA to Ft. Bragg).