



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Marine Resources Program
2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 867-4741
FAX (541) 867-0311
www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/

December 5, 2023

Oregon Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit Holders and Interested Persons,



In consultation with the crab industry, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and California and Washington fishery managers, based on meat recovery and domoic acid results from preseason testing, ODFW is opening the Oregon ocean commercial Dungeness crab season as follows:

Cape Foulweather (44° 46' 24" N. Lat.) southward to Oregon/California border (42° 00' 00" N. Lat.)

73 hr presoak begins (setting gear): December 13, 8:00 a.m.

Hold Inspections: December 15, see schedule on back

Start date (pulling gear): December 16, 9:00 a.m.

The commercial Dungeness crab fishery will remain closed in the Pacific Ocean and Columbia River from Cape Foulweather northward to the Oregon/Washington border. The continued delay in this area will allow completion of additional testing for meat recovery in areas that did not meet criteria.

Fair start provision reminders:

Fair start provisions will be in place for any delayed areas in the Tri-State area (from Klipsan Beach, WA south to Point Arena, CA). A vessel used for fishing crab in any open zone within these areas may not be used for fishing crab in any other zone within the Tri-State area that opens at a later date until 30 days after the later opening date.

Vessel Hold Inspections reminders:

Vessels must obtain a hold inspection prior to participating in the fishery for the first 30 days after opening. The vessel operator or owner must declare on the pre-season hold inspection certificate the zone in which the vessel will start fishing. Each inspection certificate must be signed by the vessel operator or owner, not by a crewman.

Closed area transit allowance (by temporary rule):

Vessels may possess and land Dungeness crab in an area that is otherwise closed to take of Dungeness crab for commercial purposes under all the following conditions:

1. **Vessel must possess and use an activated Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)** that is type-approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement or an activated Electronic Monitoring (EM) system that transmits data to an EM provider no later than the end of each fishing trip. If using an EM system, the EM provider must receive transmissions and provide automated data access to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) in a format consistent with PSMFC specifications. The vessel operator must ensure the EM system is the following:
 - i. Maintained in good working order;
 - ii. Available for inspection by ODFW, OSP, or the United States Coast Guard;
 - iii. Not interfered with, disabled, or destroyed; and

- iv. Operated according to service provider instructions and all service provider charges paid to ensure continuous operation of the EM system.
2. The vessel's **VMS or EM system must transmit vessel location and speed at least once every 60 minutes** while transiting a closed area;
3. The **vessel must maintain continuous transit through the closed area** until reaching the port of landing designated in their declaration to ODFW (see number 5 below);
4. **The vessel must register with ODFW at least 72 hours prior to entering a closed area.** Vessels shall register by completing the online registration form [here](#) or emailing kelly.c.corbett@odfw.oregon.gov a request for registration including all the information listed below (i-vii). A response will be emailed acknowledging receipt of registration information and notice of any missing information.
 - i. Vessel name;
 - ii. Vessel captain name and phone number;
 - iii. Whether the vessel is using a NMFS type-approved VMS or other EM system, and if using an EM system, the make of such system;
 - iv. Port where crab will be landed;
 - v. Wholesale fish dealer that crab will be delivered to;
 - vi. Number of trips anticipated where vessel will enter a closed area; and
 - vii. Requested start and end date of closed area transit registration.
5. **The vessel must make a per-trip declaration prior to each time the vessel enters a closed area.** The declaration shall be made by completing the online form [here](#) or calling 541-857-2522 and leaving a message with the information listed below (i-iv). These voicemails will be maintained by ODFW as the record for each declaration.
 - i. Vessel name;
 - ii. Estimated date and time the vessel will enter closed area;
 - iii. Estimated date and time the vessel will leave the closed area; and
 - iv. Any changes from registration information required in section (4.i.-4.vii.).

We would like to thank everyone involved with preseason meat recovery and domoic acid testing efforts this year to help us ensure that Oregon Dungeness crab are of good quality and safe to consume.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Kelly Corbett
Commercial Crab Project Leader
541.270.5083

Troy Buell
State Fishery Manager
541.961.8135

2023-24 Commercial Dungeness Crab
Cape Foulweather (44° 46' 24" N. Lat.) to OR/CA border
Season Opening Schedule

73 hr presoak begins (setting gear): December 13, 8:00AM

Hold Inspections: December 15, see schedule below

Start date (pulling gear): December 16, 9:00AM

Hold Inspection Schedule

After hours or for other locations: (800) 452-7888 or *OSP from a cellphone

LOCATION	TIME
Columbia River Deep Sea Basin Hammond Boat Basin Warrenton Boat Basin Astoria West End/Pier 2	By appointment
Garibaldi Boat Basin	By appointment
Pacific City	By appointment
Depoe Bay	By appointment
Newport South Beach Marina Seafood Proc. Docks- Bay Blvd. Port Dock 3, 5 & 7	12-1 PM 12-4 PM 12-4 PM
Florence	By appointment
Winchester Bay Boat Basin	11:30-12:30 PM
Charleston Small Boat Basin Charleston Boat Basin Hallmark Fisheries	12-1 PM 1-3 PM 3-4 PM
Bandon	By appointment
Port Orford	12-2:30 PM
Brookings Boat Basin Port Docks	12-4 PM