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The Dungeness Dispatch

2019 SEASON PROVES PROFITABLE

A season that got off to another late start, and with no shortage of uncertainty, ended on August 14th with the second-highest recorded ex-vessel value in the Oregon Dungeness commercial crab fishery's history.

The \$66.8-million dollars brought in, stands behind only last season's \$74 million dollar season—and ahead of the \$62.8-million brought in during the 2016-2017 season.

While the landings were just above our ten-year average, the 18.7-million pounds were still the third highest tally since the 18.2-million landed in 2012-2013. But, behind last season's 23.1 and the previous season's 20.4.

For the second season in a row, the top three ports for landings were unchanged. Newport had the most landings, followed by Charleston and Astoria.

The average Price Per Pound peaked at \$7.14 in May, before settling at \$3.57 for the season. That's up from the \$3.22 season average from the previous season.

"We want to thank all of the men and women of our fishery for the hard work they put in this season," Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Executive Director Hugh Link said. "The results are possible because of the effort and teamwork throughout the industry."

Link added that, while the season has ended, the crab commission marketing and public relations efforts continue. He also noted that the commission is keeping an eye on several major issues that could impact the next season, including whale entanglement prevention measures, wind energy, and continuing to explore MSC certification.



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Our Mission

- To enhance the image of the Oregon Dungeness crab industry, and to increase opportunities for profitability through promotion, education and research.



WIND ENERGY ON THE HORIZON

The Rec Center in Newport recently filled a room with folks interested to hear from representatives of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

Congressman Kurt Schrader helped organize the information session, which included coastal legislators like Arnie Roblan, David Gombert and Caddie McKeown. The main topic promised to be the *future* of offshore wind energy on the Oregon Coast.

But, with BOEM-funded research into the feasibility of Oregon offshore renewable energy already well underway, the future is now.

One of the studies, titled ‘Oregon Offshore Wind Site Feasibility and Cost Study,’ is concluding this year. The US Department

of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory has been assessing the present and future costs of floating offshore wind technology deployment at five reference sites in the state—at commercial scale.

They say the study provides the state of Oregon with site analysis and cost data to allow for consideration of floating offshore wind in the state’s future energy portfolio. However, to our knowledge, they have not factored the impact to the Oregon Dungeness Crab Fishery into this analysis. They certainly had not contacted us.

We made our concern known at the roundtable. That concern increased with the notice of another study that is underway. (cont’d below)

BOEM representatives, during a roundtable discussion held by Congressman Kurt Schrader, stress that they want to be good partners.

NEW CONNECTION AT PEMBINA

The Oregon Dungeness Crab fleet on the south coast is facing a number of potential issues that may not directly impact the rest of the fleet. One of those is [Jordan Cove LNG](#) in Coos Bay.

The project has been in the works, in one form or another, since 2004. But, it seems to have amped-up in recent years after [Pembina](#) took over the ownership of the project.

ODCC has been working closely with its leadership to protect the rights of the fishery and the ability of the fleet to get access to the Coos Bay bar without interruption.

Recently, we met with a new Community Affairs manager—Tasha Cadotte. She says that they want to work with us and keep us in the loop as stakeholders.

As for now, she says, they are expecting important project rulings by the state in the Fall, and FERC in January. We’ll keep you updated.

WIND ENERGY ON HORIZON, CONT’D

‘Potential Impacts of Submarine Power Cables on Crab Harvest’ is the title of a two-part research project to determine whether electromagnetic fields emitted from subsea power-transmission cables affect the movement and harvest of commercial crab species.

The first part was conducted by the University of Cal-Santa Barbara on Red Rock crab in the Santa Barbara Channel, and Dungeness crab in Puget Sound.

The second part will collect and analyze additional data, and is scheduled to begin next year to be completed in 2021. That is where our concern comes in.

We asked, ‘Shouldn’t this study be factored in to the cost feasibility study? And, Why is the study of whether offshore wind energy makes financial sense to the state, not concerned about how the state’s biggest fishery could be impacted?’

These questions, thankfully, also concerned Congressman Schrader who instructed the BOEM representatives to make sure contact was made with our office. We have since been in brief contact with BOEM’s Pacific OCS Region Renewable Energy Specialist.

There will also be a discussion of the economic impact to Oregon’s South Coast that will take place in North Bend on Saturday, October 19th, at Southwestern Oregon Community College’s Hales Center for the Performing Arts, at 6:00 pm. It is free for students and the community. Check boem.gov/oregon/ for further updates.

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission is also a member of the Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Committee (SOORC), and that group is also paying close attention to these developments, with no small sense of concern.



Look out, folks, there is a new Louie in town. Meet mid-size Louie, coming soon to an event near you!

MARKETING REPORT: MID-LOUIE ARRIVES

One of our most popular marketing tools is the inflatables program. And, this month we added a new option to that program.

Chances are that if you have been to an event where Oregon Dungeness crab is featured you have probably run into one of our lovable, “Louie” inflatables.

The first one, standing a staggering 12-foot tall, 30-foot wide, and 19-foot deep, started making the rounds in the late ‘90s. Another large Louie was soon added, with some slight differences, to help meet the demand. The program was rounded out with a smaller Louie, about four-feet tall, ten-feet wide and six-feet deep.

But, with demand as high as ever, logistics and care of the larger inflatables was becoming an issue. The size of the largest two inflatable crabs was a mixed blessing. Sure, they are the most noticeable...but, they are also the hardest to move, inflate, deflate, and keep an eye on when the winds kick-up. Sometimes that can lead to damage, either to the crab or things nearby. Either way, it was becoming a concern and recent circumstances forced us to make a decision sooner rather than later.

Earlier this year, one of the two large Louie’s returned with a couple of broken legs. Even repairing two legs can be quite expensive on an inflatable that big, so we started thinking that now might be the time to make a switch. Bringing in a mid-size Louie, one that could be a little easier to maneuver and could also fit inside of enclosed spaces on windy days, made a lot of sense.

Our new Louie stands just over six-feet tall, just under ten-feet deep, and 16-feet wide, and is perched on a rock. We think he is going to fit right in with the very popular Louie family of inflatables!



Oregon Harvest 2019

The Oregon Department of Agriculture recently helped produce a 30-minute regional televised feature, “Oregon’s Harvest,” in partnership with KOIN 6. The special featured ODA Director Taylor, as well as Governor Brown, promoting food and agriculture in Oregon.

It included a couple of segments that highlighted the wonders of Oregon Dungeness crab.

One segment was sponsored by the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission and focused on the many ways you can enjoy the tasty delicacy that our fishermen bring to the table.

We encouraged the show’s producers to speak with some of the chefs and restaurants in Cannon Beach who took part in the inaugural SAVOR Oregon Dungeness Crab Month there, last March.

[Click here](#) to see the results, or visit our [“promotional materials” section at oregondungeness.org](#).

The segment runs just over three minutes.



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

No doubt many of you are busy in the gear shed these days. It's that time of the year again, painting buoys and stretching out lines. A lot of time will be spent on prepping the boat and the gear for the upcoming season.

While all that is important, don't forget to prep yourself and your crew for the challenges that winter brings. AMSEA is once again offering its Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor Training Courses this fall. Monthly drills are required but beyond that, you owe it to yourself and your crew to be prepared if things go haywire. Courses will be offered in:

Garibaldi October 29-30
Astoria Oct 31-November 1
Gold Beach November 5-6
Charleston November 7-8
Newport November 13-14

Also, of great importance are the upcoming **ODFW Crab Industry Meetings**. This is your fishery. So, make sure to attend one and let your voice be heard. New regulations are coming and you can be part of shaping them. You can find more details in the next article. (→)

Your Crab Commission is on top of the issues and staying engaged all the way. Reach out to your local commissioner with any questions.

This is my last column of "View From The Bridge". Crystal Adams, our processor representative from Charleston is taking the next wheel watch. I am proud to have her as our new chairman. Rest assured, your Crab Commission is in good hands!!

Over, and out.

-John Corbin/Commission Chair

PUTTING A SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Cutting risk is a great reward! There are a couple of safety training events coming up this month that will help you earn that reward.

The AMSEA training course is currently offered free of charge to commercial fishermen.

The 18-hour drill conductor course is a US Coast Guard Accepted training course that satisfies 46 CFR 28.270 (certification to lead monthly drills on a commercial fishing industry vessel).

This training course is in-depth, interactive and hands-on. It provides great training for both, the skipper and the entire crew. Many previous attendees have attributed this training to saving

their life, lives of crew members and/or the saving of the vessel. Refresher training is recommended every five years.

[Click here](#) for dates/times and more information. (or, copy and paste <http://oregondungeness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-Fall-Drill-Classes.pdf>)

OSU will also be hosting [another FFAST course in Newport](#), dealing with common fishery injuries and illnesses, ranging from seasickness or chapped hands all the way to life-threatening injuries such as crush injuries or hypothermia. For more information, contact Angee Doerr at angee.doerr@oregonstate.edu or 541-648-6816.

ODFW MEETINGS SET THIS MONTH

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to hear from the fleet, to help prepare final recommendations for whale entanglement risk reduction management measures - Phase II.

Those recommendations will be presented to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) in late winter/early spring (targeting Feb 2020). They plan to recommend implementing some of the measures as early as spring 2020. They intend the regulatory package to include measures for the "late season" (the timing of which is yet to be defined), when there is an increase in whale feeding aggregations off Oregon and when entanglements are thought more likely to occur.

[The primary focus of Phase II whale entanglement management measures is to help reduce risk of whale entanglements in crab gear by reducing the number of vertical lines in the water.](#)

This month, they will be hosting four regional Dungeness crab public industry meetings, looking for input on specific and focused topics. One major topic of discussion will be how and when to reduce the number of vertical lines in the water.

The fleet is encouraged to attend any of these coastal meetings:

- Coos Bay – Thursday, Oct. 17, 1-4 pm – North Bend Library
- Brookings – Friday, Oct. 18, 9-12 pm – Harbor Water District Building
- Astoria – Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1-4 pm – Holiday Inn
- Newport – Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1-4 pm – Shilo Inn (or join remotely from your electronic devices here <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/674224637>. For phone audio call 1-408-650-3123 and access code 674-224-637.)

BULLETIN BOARD MATERIAL

[ODCC and crab fishermen]:

“Thank you so much for your donation of crab to [Feast](#) and me (Burger Stevens).

I made a simple [burger slider and put your Dungeness crab dressed in some Louis sauce on top.](#)

People were freaking out about it! It was such a good time.

So (dang) tasty!

Thank you so much

I hope to use your product in the future.

Chef Don Salamone”

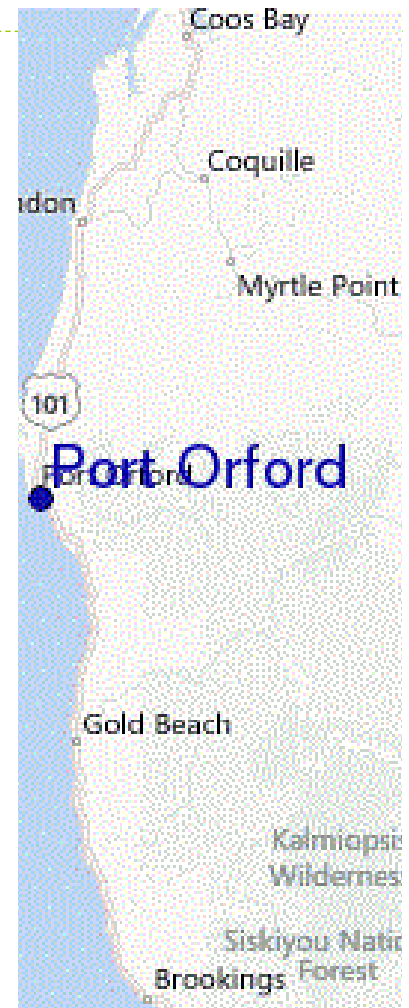


“...the NDBC applied for, and received, additional funding in June 2019 to hire a commercial vessel to service the West Coast weather buoy array through FY20.”

Below is the information provided after an inquiry to the U.S. Coast Guard Congressional Affairs Office in Washington from Congressman DeFazio on the missing buoys off the south coast:

“The National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) stations 46015 (Port Orford) and 46027 (Pt. St. George) are scheduled to be replaced in November 2019. With the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Coast Guard traditionally services most NOAA weather buoys when the service does not interfere with other statutory missions. This work is coordinated through the NDBC.

Due to these foreseen shortages in Coast Guard heavy lift capability on the West Coast (our 225' Buoy Tenders are currently working Coast Guard Aids in San Francisco), the NDBC applied for, and received, additional funding in June 2019 to hire a commercial vessel to service the West Coast weather buoy array through FY20. Once NOAA contracted this commercial vessel in June 2019, we understand that their contracted vessel is working its way down to Oregon from Alaska. NOAA did not request additional NDBC support from the Coast Guard to replace these stations.”



OREGON DUNGENESS CRAB COMMISSION

JOHN CORBIN/ASTORIA

CRYSTAL ADAMS/
CHARLESTON (Processor Rep)

JOHN MOODY/NEWPORT
(Processor Rep)

MIKE RETHERFORD/
NEWPORT

TYLER LONG/CHARLESTON

BRIAN NOLTE/BROOKINGS

RICK LILIENTHAL/
CHARLESTON

LEIF ERIC BENSON/PUBLIC
MEMBER

A MONTH TO SAVOR DUNGENESS

Welcome our new Office Manager— Lynne Piazza:

Lynne comes to us with years of experience in office management and has already settled in as 'one of the team'! Her skill-set and knowledge are already paying-off and we are glad to have her onboard. Welcome, Lynne!



NEXT ODCC MEETING:

The next meeting will be **November 1, 2019, in Brookings at the Harbor Water District building from 10 am to 3 pm.** Watch for the agenda coming soon!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL ONLY, WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HYPERLINKS, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO US AT:

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