



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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September 14, 2022

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

The 2021-22 Washington Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery ends at 11:59 pm on September 15, 2022. Fishers are reminded that all crab must be landed and all crab gear must be removed from coastal waters prior to 11:59 pm on September 15, 2022.

This is a reminder that beginning at 12:01 am on September 16, 2022, **permitted gear recovery for all state licensed gear** will be allowed in coastal waters between the Washington/Oregon border (46° 15.00) and the US / Canada Border, including the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor.

If you have already received a gear recovery permit for the in-season gear recovery period, you do not need to request another permit. Please make sure you have your permit in addition to your derelict gear recovery logbook onboard before departing to recover gear.

A PERMIT IS REQUIRED to participate in this program.

☐ TO REQUEST A PERMIT contact:

- **Jamie Fuller at 360-580-0875 or jamie.fuller@dfw.wa.gov**

Permit holders will be exempt from lost and found property laws allowing them to keep any crab gear they recover or to make arrangements to return the gear to the original owner. ***This permit does not allow the recovery of crab gear owned by tribal fishers.***

In regard to final deposition of recovered gear, remember that it is always an option for those participating in the permitted gear recovery program to give the owner of any gear they recover the right of first refusal.

To allow for data collection and monitoring of the program, gear recovery permits will require:

- ☐ That the permit is on board the participating vessel anytime it is engaged in recovery operations or has recovered gear onboard.
- ☐ Notification to Department staff (**by calling Sergeant Brian Alexander (Westport) at 360-580-6200 or Sergeant Todd Dielman (Ilwaco/Chinook) at 360-581-3423**) **2-hours prior to returning** to the dock if any gear was recovered.
- ☐ Recording all recovered gear in a special logbook specific to derelict gear recovery (this logbook will be provided with your permit.)
- ☐ Registration, inspection, and marking of all recovered gear prior to removing it from the participating vessel.

In order to locate and recover as much abandoned crab gear as possible the Department has set up an abandoned gear reporting hotline for coastal areas. Any information on the specific location of crab pots that are not actively fishing will aid to the success of the permitted gear recovery project.

To report lost or abandoned crab gear call 360-249-1297 and leave as much information as possible including, your name, phone number, general location, latitude and longitude and approximate amount of lost gear.