



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

September 22, 2023

Dear Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery Participant:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has proposed rule changes that will require the installation of an electronic monitoring (EM) system on vessels participating in the WA coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery. Additional information about proposed rule changes can be found in a letter to license holders available at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/final-letter-crab-license-holders-august-2023-1.pdf>. A complete description of the proposed rules that are open for public comment is available at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development/coastal-crab-and-puget-sound-shellfish-updates> .

Under the proposed rule, all vessels participating in the WA Dungeness Crab Fishery will be required to have a working EM system installed by January 1, 2024. WDFW recognizes that compliance with these proposed rule changes imposes a significant cost on fishery participants. To offset this impact, WDFW has secured funding to provide an Archipelago FishVue LIME EM system to coastal Dungeness crab fishery participants that have recently participated in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

WDFW has developed an application process and qualification criteria to facilitate the equitable distribution of EM systems. Only one EM system will be issued per vessel, with priority given to vessels designated to a Washington coastal commercial Dungeness crab license by October 25, 2023.

Qualification to receive an EM system will be based the following criteria:

- First Priority: Vessels designated to a 2024 license by October 25, 2023.
- Second Priority: Vessels that made at least one landing during the 2022-23 season but are not designated on a 2024 license before October 25, 2023.
- Third Priority: Vessels that made at least one landing during the 2021-22 season but are not designated on a 2024 license before October 25, 2023.

Distribution of EM systems will begin on November 1, for qualified applicants. System availability will be dependent on funding and it's possible that not all applicants will qualify for an EM system. Vessels intending to participate in the fishery should be prepared to purchase an EM system if they don't apply before the October 25 deadline.

Vessels that have previously received an EM device as part of the EM Pilot Project are not eligible to receive a second device.

Coastal crab license owners, operators, and **alternate operators** must renew their licenses and designate the vessel applying for a device by October 25, 2023. Failure of alternate operators to renew their license will prevent processing of the coastal crab license and priority status being assigned.

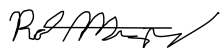
An application to request an EM system is attached to this notice. Please renew all licenses and update vessel designation as appropriate and return the application in the provided envelope. WDFW will review applications and forward a list of qualified applicants to Archipelago Marine Research Ltd. for distribution. Upon receiving the EM system, vessel operators will be responsible for installing the system and activating it prior to the season start. Instructions for self-installation will be provided and operators may also contact Archipelago or a marine electrician to install the device.

An alternate operator license renewal form is also attached to this letter to help facilitate the renewal process. Alternate operator license renewals are the most common cause for delay in processing coastal crab licenses.

For any questions or replacement forms please contact:

Robert Morgan  
Electronic Monitoring Program Manager  
Phone: 360-480-8596  
Email: [robert.morgan@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:robert.morgan@dfw.wa.gov)

Sincerely,



Robert Morgan

Cc: Lorna Wargo  
Matthew George  
Jamie Fuller  
Megan Hintz  
Heather Hall



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

**APPLICATION FOR WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB ELECTRONIC  
MONITORING SYSTEM**

WDFW has secured funding to distribute EM systems to participating Washington coastal Dungeness crab vessels. Preference will be given to vessels based on criteria listed in the included industry notice dated **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**. To be eligible to receive a system you must complete, sign, and **return this form in the provided addressed envelope**. By submitting this application, you are authorizing WDFW to share the information you provide with Archipelago Marine Research Ltd and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

**VESSEL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOC#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VESSEL OPERATOR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LICENSE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DID THIS VESSEL PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS  
CRAB FISHERY DURING THE 2022/2023 SEASON?** \_\_\_\_\_

**DID THIS VESSEL PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS  
CRAB FISHERY DURING THE 2021/2022 SEASON?** \_\_\_\_\_

**You must provide a physical address (not a PO Box) to receive an EM system:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vessel Owner/Primary Operator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vessel Owner/Primary Operator Printed Name

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Robert Morgan at: 360-480-8596  
[Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Robert.Morgan@dfw.wa.gov)

Return forms to: WDFW Region 6 EM Program  
48 Devonshire Rd.  
Montesano, WA 98563

WDFW-819 (Rev. 2-2022)  
 Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife  
 Alternate Operator Application  
 for the Year \_\_\_\_\_

Department Use	
License #	Date
Resident <b>\$255.00</b>	Non-Res <b>\$640.00</b>
Total Fee	Amount received

License will expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year issued.

Alternate Operator Information					
Last Name		First Name		Initial	
Physical Address					
Mailing Address			Email Address		
City		State		Zip Code	
Phone			Social Security Number (required)		
Birthdate		Sex	Hair	Eyes	Weight
<input type="checkbox"/> I have been a resident of Washington for the previous 90 days and am not licensed as a resident in any other state. <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a resident of Washington State.  I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the law of the state of Washington that the above information is true and correct. Providing false information may invalidate this license.			Make fees payable to Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)  <u>Mailing Address</u> Department of Fish & Wildlife Commercial Licensing PO Box 43154 Olympia WA 98504  If using Fed ex or UPS please use <u>Physical Address</u> 1111 Washington St SE Olympia WA 98501  Phone 360-902-2464 TDD 360-902-2207 FAX 360-902-2945		
Signature			Date		
Print Name					

An alternate operator license alone does not allow an individual to operate a vessel and/or sell catch to a licensed wholesale dealer. Only those operators shown on the plastic fishery card may operate the designated vessel in that fishery.

For additional information contact a licensing representative at 360-902-2464 (opt 4)

### RCW 77.65.130

Vessel operation—License designation—Alternate operator license required.

(1) A person who holds a commercial fishery license or a delivery license may operate the vessel designated on the license. A person who is not the license holder may operate the vessel designated on the license only if:

(a) The person holds an alternate operator license issued by the director; and

(b) The person is designated as an alternate operator on the underlying commercial fishery license or delivery license under RCW [77.65.110](#).

(2) Only an individual at least sixteen years of age may hold an alternate operator license.

(3) No individual may hold more than one alternate operator license. An individual who holds an alternate operator license may be designated as an alternate operator on an unlimited number of commercial fishery licenses or delivery licenses under RCW [77.65.110](#).

(4) An individual who holds multiple Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses issued pursuant to RCW [77.70.110](#) may operate the licenses on one vessel if the license holder or alternate operator is on the vessel. The department shall allow a license holder to operate up to one hundred crab pots for each license.

(5) Two persons owning separate Dungeness crab—Puget Sound fishery licenses may operate their licenses on one vessel if the license holders or their alternate operators are on the vessel.

(6) As used in this section, to "operate" means to control the deployment or removal of fishing gear from state waters while aboard a vessel or to operate a vessel delivering food fish or shellfish taken in offshore waters to a port within the state.

#### **Notification Clause**

This program receives Federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to: WDFW, ADA Coordinator at 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia WA 98501 or to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA 22203

Personal information provided to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife may be disclosed via a Public Records Request

**All the information you provide in this application becomes a public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by members of the public, unless an exemption in the law exists. The Department's Policy regarding Privacy Protection and Public Disclosure Requests is available upon request**