



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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On October 27, 2023, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the adoption of new rules that impact the WA coastal Dungeness crab fishery. A complete description of rule changes can be found at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development/coastal-crab-and-puget-sound-shellfish-updates>.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) would like to take this opportunity to proactively address common questions and concerns regarding these new rules and their implementation. Broadly, new rules fall within one of three categories, namely: electronic monitoring, line marking, or gear marking.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Electronic monitoring (EM)

1. New rules specify that all vessels participating in the WA coastal Dungeness crab fishery must have a functioning EM system installed, activated, and transmitting data to the Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission (PSMFC) by January 1, 2024.
2. WDFW has partnered with PSMFC and Archipelago Marine Research to provide an EM system to qualifying fishery participants. Instructions on how to apply can be found here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/em-application-notice.pdf>. Fishery participants who do not receive an EM system through this program will need to purchase an EM system that meets WDFW's data recording and transmission requirements. **EM systems are still available and WDFW will continue to accept EM applications based on availability.**
3. EM systems continuously transmit data to fishery managers after activation and require the purchase of a data plan. The terms and cost of data plans will vary based on your service provider.
4. For more information, please visit the new EM section of the coastal Dungeness crab webpage at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/electronic-monitoring>. A copy of the Electronic Monitoring Program Compliance Guide is included with this notice.

Line Marking:

1. Line markings must be exclusive to the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery; line markings used in the coastal fishery cannot be the same as those used in another state or fishery (including those in Puget Sound).
2. Line markings must be continuous and extend for a 12-inch span. Marking line with zip ties or other implements at regular intervals does not fulfill this requirement.

Gear Marking:

1. Crab buoys within the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery may not be both red and white unless at least 30 percent of the buoy is marked in additional color(s).
2. Crab fishery participants must complete buoy registration annually using the WDFW online registration form: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1a6ae9a42a7342d4884f63a089968aa9>.

NEXT STEPS

Applicants that have filed an application for an EM system can expect:

1. Archipelago LIME electronic monitoring systems will be shipped to applicants directly from Archipelago as early as November 13, 2023.
2. Instructions on how to install the LIME system and subscribe to a data plan will be included with your shipment.
3. Following installation, applicants can subscribe to a data plan by scanning the QR code included in the box with the LIME system or by visiting: <https://www.archipelago.ca/fishvuelime-help>
4. Fishers will receive an email to register for FishVue Fleet. This service can be used by fishers to validate that the LIME system is transmitting data.

All fishery participants who have installed an EM system on their vessel must:

1. Submit an activation report to WDFW. A follow-up industry notice will include more information on this process and a copy of an activation report. Activation reports can be found at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/electronic-monitoring#activation>.
2. WDFW staff will provide confirmation that the LIME unit is transmitting data to the provided contact information on the form.
3. Fishers are now ready to participate in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery.

WDFW STAFF ARE HERE TO HELP

WDFW staff, as well as our partners, are available to assist during this transition. In addition, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission has directed WDFW's Enforcement Program to use their discretion and flexibility during the first year that electronic monitoring is required for the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery. For any questions or replacement forms please contact:

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