

Amending Coastal Recreational Dungeness Crab Rules

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Purpose and Need for Rule Changes

- **The coastal Dungeness crab fishery is a winter fishery that opens on Dec. 1**
 - commercial pots can be set as early as November 28
- **Average catch 2002-2007:**
 - Commercial: 15.9 million pounds
 - Recreational (CRC): 49.8 thousand pounds
- **Gear conflict between commercial and recreational users can be an issue in areas where the fisheries operate together**

Proposed Action

- **Revise the opening of the recreational crab pot season to November 15 in Willapa Bay, two weeks earlier than the current December 1 opening**
- **Affect:**
 - **Reduce gear conflict between recreational and commercial users**
 - **Provide additional access to recreational users**
 - **Minimal, if any, impact to the Dungeness crab resource**
 - **Eliminate state/tribal harvest sharing issues in the area north of Point Chehalis**

Questions or Comments?