



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – October 2016

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed the optional October pre-season test for coastal Dungeness crab shell condition and meat recovery.

The stations in the Long Beach Test Area were completed on October 30. All the stations in the Westport Test Area were also completed late on October 30, 2016.

The standard WDFW coastal Dungeness crab testing fishing protocol was followed (*except that due to poor weather the Long Beach gear soaked for 7 days*). Crabs were collected from three stations at each area; strings of pots were set at 15, 30, and 45 fathoms at each station. All legal sized male crab caught were included in the meat recovery sample. While aboard the charter vessels, WDFW staff collected shell condition data from the same crab collected from all depths and stations. The results for all stations are summarized below.

Test Area	Date	Shell Grade				Meat Recovery
		1A	1B	II	III	
Westport	10/30/16	42.5%	44.4%	13.0%		22.9%
Long Beach	10/30/16	47.0%	27.3%	25.7%		23.0%

Definition of shell grades;

- 1A: no flex in body or legs; marketable
- 1B : slight flex in either body or leg; marketable
- II: some flex in both body and leg; not marketable
- III: extreme flex in body and legs; not marketable

Note that only WDFW exercised the option (per the Tri-State Agreement) to conduct an October test.

The first **required** round of testing (per the Tri-State Agreement) will be completed by mid-November. WDFW expects to include the Northern Washington test stations at that time. Tests will also be conducted during the same period in Oregon and California.

WDFW is grateful to the fishers and processors who provide the key cooperation needed to allow this work to be conducted successfully.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, feel free to call Dan Ayres at 360.249.4628 (ext. 209) or by email Daniel.Ayres@dfw.w.gov