



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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September 8, 2023

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

The 2022-23 Washington Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery ends at 11:59 pm on September 15, 2023. 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, 2023.

This is a reminder that beginning at 12:01 am on September 16, 2023, **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 and 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 are exempt from lost and found property laws and are allowed to keep recovered crab gear or return gear to the original owner. **This permit does not allow the recovery of crab gear owned by tribal fishers.**

WDFW would like to remind permitted gear recovery program participants that it is always an option to give the owner of any recovered gear 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 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.