



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 249-1229

November 21, 2025

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

Season Opening Delayed in Washington

In consultation with Dungeness crab Tri-State fishery managers from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), WDFW is delaying the opening of the 2025-26 WA Coastal Dungeness crab fishery through at least December 15, 2025. The decision to delay the WA Coastal Dungeness crab fishery was based on crab condition tests results from the Long Beach test area that does not currently meet the minimum meat recovery criteria. See the [November 14 industry notice](#) for results from the first round test.

Tri-State Dungeness crab Pre-Season Testing Protocols specify that after the first round of testing, if any area does not meet the minimum meat recovery criteria (23% north of Cascade Head and 24% south of Cascade Head) a delay is required, and additional testing is conducted before a season opening date can be confirmed. A second round of meat recovery is scheduled to be conducted in the Long Beach test area before December 7, 2025. WDFW will provide additional information regarding the season opening as soon as possible following the completion of the upcoming Long Beach Test.

In consultation with Tri-State fishery managers and industry advisors, Oregon has also announced a coastwide delay of the ocean commercial Dungeness crab season until at least December 16 to allow for the completion of additional meat recovery testing off Washington and to avoid disrupting traditional fishing patterns.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notice, contact Matt George at Matthew.George@dfw.wa.gov or 360-640-1066 or Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or 360-580-0875.