



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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April 23, 2026

WASHINGTON COASTAL DUNGENESS CRAB INDUSTRY NOTICE

QUIL SMA Opens and Pot Limits Take Effect May 1

Quileute Special Management Area (SMA)

Effective at **8:00 A.M. on May 1, 2026**, the Quileute SMA will open to State fishers. State fishers will be subject to a **100-pot limit in the QUIL SMA** from 8:00 AM May 1, 2026, until 8:00 AM June 1, 2026. The Quileute SMA is defined by the following coordinates:

- Northeast Corner (Cape Johnson): 47° 58.00' N. Lat. 124° 40.40' W. Lon.
- Northwest Corner: 47° 58.00' N. Lat. 124° 49.00' W. Lon.
- Southwest Corner: 47° 40.50' N. Lat. 124° 40.00' W. Lon.
- Southeast Corner (Destruction Island): 47° 40.50' N. Lat. 124° 24.43' W. Lon.

Fishers must pre-register with WDFW prior to deploying gear in this area by contacting Jamie Fuller at Jamie.Fuller@dfw.wa.gov or 360-580-0875.

Summer Pot Limits

We also want to remind you of the annual reduced summer pot limit starting May 1, 2026, for the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery. The intent of this requirement is to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled in commercial crab gear by reducing the number of lines in the water during the peak time when humpback whales are present off the Washington coast.

Effective May 1 through September 15

- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 500 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 330 pots.
- Licenses with a permanent pot limit of 300 will be assigned a reduced pot limit of 200 pots.

Any gear deployed on or after May 1, 2026, must have summer buoy tags attached. Please remember to remove your regular season tag by May 1st and leave only the summer tag attached to your buoy setup. Any state licensed crab gear left in the ocean after April 30, 2026, without summer buoy tags attached will be subject to gear recovery.

14-day Landing Rule

Beginning May 1 through September 15, it is unlawful to leave Dungeness crab pots deployed in Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, Columbia River, or waters of the Pacific Ocean adjacent to the state of Washington for more than 14 consecutive days without making a Dungeness crab landing. This gear tending requirement contributes to efforts to reduce entanglements with marine mammals and ensures that gear not being actively fish is removed from the water during the period when whales are more likely to be present off the Washington Coast.

For more information on this rule or other coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery rules, please visit the rules and regulations page on our website at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal>

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- **Vessels leaving the fishery must submit a departure report to WDFW before turning off their EM system.** Departure reports must contain vessel name, license number, and departure date. Reports can be sent by email to Coastal.Crab.EM@dfw.wa.gov or by text to Robert Morgan at 360-480-8596.

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