October 28, 2026

Preseason Dungeness Crab Test Fishery Results – October 2026

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has completed an optional October pre-season test for the coastal Dungeness crab fishery. The test was conducted to assess the condition of the crab resource in advance of the 2026-27 season.

Sampling within the Westport Test Area was completed on October 21, 2026. The test was conducted in accordance with the Tri-State Coastal Dungeness Crab Revised Pre-Season Testing Protocol, available at the following link: https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/pre-season-testing-protocols-2024-final.pdf. Briefly, crabs were collected from three stations within the Westport testing 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. The meat recovery results are summarized below.

Test Area	Date	Meat Recovery	Domoic Acid (ppm) levels per crab
Westport	10/21/26	19.2%	No Test

Note that only WDFW exercised the option (per the Tri-State Agreement) to conduct an October pre-test. Given historical trends of crab condition improving first within fishing grounds north of Klipsan Beach, only the Westport test fishery was conducted during the pre-test this season. WDFW plans to complete the first round of testing within the Westport and Long Beach test areas by November 15, 2026.

Domoic acid testing was not conducted in the October pre-test. As of the publication of this notice, razor clam samples from Long Beach and Twin Harbors are at or have exceeded the 20 ppm action level set by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Dungeness crab can accumulate domoic acid, mainly in the viscera, by eating contaminated prey. The DOH action levels for domoic acid in Dungeness crab are 20 ppm in the meat and 30 ppm in the viscera. Domoic acid testing of crab will begin with Round 1 of Tri-State pre-season testing in November and WDFW will post results as they become available.

Test fishing results from Washington, Oregon, and California can be viewed on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) website: https://old.psmfc.org/crab/2026-2027%20files/Tri-StatePreseasonCoastwideResults_2026.pdf.

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, 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.

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