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SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES

DATE: December 21, 2022

REGULATION NUMBER 22-160S

REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 21-159S

SPECIES: Crab

FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 21, 2022

HARVEST LOCATIONS, POT LIMITS AND -SEASONS BY REGION:

This regulation lists harvest areas, harvest openings and harvest restrictions for Suquamish tribal fishers. This regulation may be amended by subsequent emergency regulations.

Region 3

Commercial

MFSFCA 23A and 23B, (North and east of a line drawn from McCurdy Point to the north tip of Protection Island to Trial Island)

Closed

MFSFCA 25A, (North and east of a line drawn from McCurdy Point to the north tip of Protection Island to Trial Island)

Open: 9:00AM Sunday, December 11, 2022

Close: 4:00PM Wednesday, January 4, 2023

This fishery is CLOSED on December 24 and 25. No gear pulling or setting allowed on those days.

Gear limit: 50 pots per boat

Subsistence

MFSFCA 25A, (North and east of a line drawn from McCurdy Point to the north tip of Protection Island to Trial Island)

Open: 9:00AM Thursday, October 6, 2022

Close: 5:00PM Tuesday, February 28, 2023

SUBSISTENCE LIMIT: Four pots and 6 crabs per ID holder per day unless otherwise noted. Harvesters must obtain a permit from the fisheries office.

EXPECTED EFFORT: Approximately 10 boats



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RESTRICTIONS:

1. Fishers must have in their possession at all times a valid Suquamish fishing ID with current year shellfish sticker on the back.
2. Subsistence and ceremonial harvest requires the issuance of a permit by the Suquamish Fisheries Department.
3. All crab retained for personal consumption or gifts must be recorded on fish tickets as take home.
4. No harvest one half hour before sunrise and one half hour after sunset is allowed.
5. All gear must be removed from the water prior to the time of the fishery closure.
6. All crab rejected from the buyer must be recorded on fish tickets as weigh back.
7. All non-legal crab must be returned to the water at the location where they were harvested. It is unlawful to discard crab anywhere else.
8. It is unlawful to use geoduck for bait

IN-COMMON RESTRICTIONS: In addition to those restrictions above, the following restrictions, which all Region 3 tribes are imposing for this opening, notwithstanding any contrary provisions in their respective tribal codes, all apply:

1. It is prohibited to barge pots or tow boats for the purposes of hauling gear before, during, or after the fishery opening.
2. Each boat shall have no more than 30 pots.
3. All buoys must be marked with the vessel number of the boat fishing that gear.
4. All registered boats must set and pick their own registered gear.
5. The use of ground lines is not permitted during the summer fishery.
6. All gear shall be removed from the water prior to the time of fishery closure, subject to two narrow exceptions. First, if gear cannot be lifted from the water prior to closure because of a mechanical failure, fishers must immediately notify Enforcement. Enforcement will document any breakdown including any gear lifted from or remaining in the water. Another boat or Enforcement may lift the pots but the gear may not be redeployed. Second, if winds are above 20 knots and it would be unsafe to transport the pots, the gear can remain in the water in non-fishing condition until it is safe to transport.
7. Fishers shall not have crab on board a vessel while recovering pots after closure of the fishery.
8. It is unlawful to have on board a vessel, purchase or attempt to sell a female crab or male crab less than 6.25 inches measure across the back in front of the horns.
9. It is unlawful to have on board a vessel, purchase or attempt to sell soft crab.
10. There shall be no crab in transit to a buyer more than 4-hours after the close of a fishery.



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11. A different boat cannot engage in the harvest of another boat's registered pots and crab under any circumstances. If a boat breaks down, a different boat may help the fisher retrieve the gear at the end of the fishery.
 12. Pots cannot be pulled after a fishery closing time if crab is on board the vessel. Crabbers must report all pots left in the water after closing time to the Suquamish Fisheries Enforcement, head to port to sell crab catch, then plan on retrieving lost/ leftover gear. All crab pulled after closing time must be returned to the water at the pot location.

GEAR:

- Each unattended pot must be attached to a surface buoy which is neither red and white or yellow in color. The buoy must be clearly marked with the license holder's Tribal fishing identification number (58XXX). Lines attaching buoys to pots must be weighted sufficiently to prevent the line from floating on the surface.
- All crab pots must have two escape rings not less than 4 1/4 inches inside diameter. Escape rings must be located on the top half of the pot.
- Each pot must have a 3-inch by 5-inch biodegradable cord panel (natural fiber, maximum thread size 120 or approx. 1/8 inch) or a biodegradable loop attached to the pot lid hook
- Pots, ring nets, and hand-operated instruments that do not penetrate the shell are the only lawful gear for crab harvest.
- No crab gear shall be tended more than one half-hour before sunrise or more than one half-hour after sunset.

SIZE AND SEX LIMIT:

- Minimum size for male crab is 6 1/4 inches. Minimum size is measured using a caliper across the back at the widest part of the shell immediately in front of, but not including the outside of, the tips.
- Retention of female and soft-shelled crab is prohibited and must be released immediately.

HARVEST AREA DESCRIPTION:

Region 3

Sub-area 3-1

Catch Area 23A: Those waters of Puget Sound southerly of a line due east from the international boundary to a point 1 nautical mile from Pile Point, San Juan Island, thence southeasterly along a line 1 nautical mile from the southern shores of San Juan Island and Lopez Island to Davidson Rock near Point Colville; and westerly and northerly of a line described as follows: A line segment from Davidson Rock near Colville Point, Lopez Island to a point 2 nautical miles from the Smith Island light until the line intersects with a line between Smith Island light and the vessel traffic service buoy north of Dungeness Spit, thence to the vessel traffic service buoy, thence



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southerly and westerly to a point 1 ½ nautical miles north of the Ediz Hook light thence north to the international boundary.

Catch Area 23B: Those waters of Puget Sound southerly of a line that extends from Davidson Rock near Colville Point, Lopez Island, then easterly to a point one nautical mile south of the buoy at Lawson Reef and then due east to Whidbey Island; and easterly of Catch Area 23A; and northerly of a line due west from Partridge Point, Whidbey Island, to its intersection with Catch Area 23A.

Sub-area 3-2

Catch Area 23D: Those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Catch Area 23A and easterly of a line due north from the Ediz Hook light to the international boundary, and westerly of a line from the Dungeness light to the vessel traffic service buoy north of Dungeness light.

Catch Area 25A: Those waters of Puget Sound south of Catch Areas 23A and 23B; east of Catch Area 23D; north of a line projected from Diamond Point to Cape George, and westerly of a line projected from Point Partridge on Whidbey Island to Point Wilson.

Catch Area 25E: Those waters of Discovery Bay south of a line from Cape George to Diamond Point.

Sub-area 3-3

Catch Area 23C East: Those waters of Puget Sound westerly of a line due north from the Ediz Hook light to the international boundary; and easterly of a line projected due north to Low Point.

Sub-area 3-4

Catch Area 23C West: Those waters of Puget Sound westerly of a line due north from Low Point to the international boundary; and easterly of a line projected due north from the mouth of the Seiku River.

Catch Area 29: Those waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca west of a line projected due north from the mouth of the Sekiu River, and east of a line projected from the Bonilla Point light on Vancouver Island to the Tatoosh Island light, then to the most westerly point of Cape Flattery.

ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:

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