SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES
DATE: May 17, 2023
REGULATION NUMBER 23-084S
REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 22-None

SPECIES: Dungeness crab *Metacarcinus magister* and Red rock crab *Cancer productus*

FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 22, 2023

JUSTIFICATION: This regulation is made pursuant to Section 4.6 of the Shellfish Implementation Plan (April 8, 2002) to proceed with harvest in the possible absence of a state / tribes agreement for the 2023-2024 Region 4 Crab Harvest Management Plan.

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 4
Catch Areas 26B and 26C
Commercial
Open: 7:00AM Monday, May 22, 2023
Close: 7:00PM Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Gear limit: 50 pots per boat
Tribal quota: 60,000 pounds

Subsistence
Open: 7:00AM Monday, May 22, 2023
Close: 4:00PM Thursday, February 29, 2024, or when the tribal share is harvested

EXPECTED EFFORT: Up to 30 boats in all areas combined

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

HARVEST AREA DESCRIPTION:

Region 4

Catch Area 26B: Those waters of Puget Sound south of a line from Apple Cove Point to Edwards Point, and east of a line from Point Monroe, Bainbridge Island, to the mouth of Miller Bay, and east of a line from Beans Point on Bainbridge Island to Orchard Point, and northerly of a line from the ferry dock at Point Southworth to Brace Point.

Catch Area 26C: Those waters of Puget Sound westerly and adjacent to Catch Area 26B.

GEAR:

- In Region 4, <u>each unattended pot</u> must be attached to a surface buoy which is neither red and white or yellow in color. In other regions, strings of pots may be attached to one buoy according to the specification for each regional management plan. 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.
- In other regions (as permitted in regional plans), <u>each pot or string of pots (longline)</u> must be attached to a surface buoy that is capable of floating a 5-pound weight. Buoys attached to gear used for commercial fishing can be any color or color combination except half red and half white. If red and white buoy colors are used, a minimum of 30% of the surface buoy(s) will be prominently marked with an additional color other than red and white. Buoys shall be conspicuously marked with a registered identification number.
- 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 Dungeness 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 Dungeness crab is prohibited and must be released immediately.
- Male red rock crab with a carapace width or 5 inches (127 mm) or greater may be retained.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

- No harvest one half hour before sunrise and one half hour after sunset is allowed.

- Fishers must have in their possession at all times a valid Suquamish fishing ID with current year shellfish sticker on the back.
- Subsistence and ceremonial harvest requires the issuance of a permit by the Suquamish Fisheries Department.
- All gear must be removed from the water prior to the time of the fishery closure.
- All crab retained for personal consumption or gifts must be recorded on fish tickets as take home.
- All crab rejected from the buyer must be recorded on fish tickets as weigh back.
- 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.
- All boats involved in the fishery must be in good working order.
- It is illegal for any fisherman to operate more than one vessel during this fishery.
- It is legal to harvest and sell Red rock crab during opened fisheries.

ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:
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