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## SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES

DATE: August 19, 2024

REGULATION NUMBER 24-156S

REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 24-104S

SPECIES: Dungeness crab *Metacarcinus magister*

FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 19, 2024

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 2024-2025 Region 2 West 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 2 West**

#### **Catch Areas 26AW, 25B, and 25D**

##### *Commercial*

Open: 8:00AM Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Close: 8:00PM Sunday, August 25, 2024

Gear limit: Total 50 pots per boat in the region with a maximum of 20 pots per boat in Catch Area 25D (Port Townsend Bay)

##### *Subsistence and Ceremonial*

Open: 8:00 Monday, June 15, 2024

Close: 5:00PM Monday, March 31, 2025

EXPECTED EFFORT: Up to 40 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 2W**

**Catch Area 25B:** Those waters of Admiralty Inlet east of a line from Point Wilson to Point Partridge; northeast of a line projected from Point Hudson to Marrowstone Point; and north of a line projected from Olele Point to Foulweather Bluff continuing to Double Bluff on Whidbey Island.

**Catch Area 25D:** The waters of Port Townsend Bay and Kilisut Harbor southwest of a line from Point Hudson to Marrowstone Point.

**Catch Area 26A-W:** Those waters of Puget Sound southeast of a line from Foulweather Bluff to Double Bluff; northerly of a line from Apple Cove Point to Edwards Point; and south and westerly of a line which extends from Possession Point to the shipwreck located 0.8 nautical miles north of Picnic Point.

GEAR:

- In Region 4, each unattended pot 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), each pot or string of pots (longline) 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:



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- 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.
  - Red rock crab of either sex 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.

**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 2W Dungeness Crab Harvest Management Plan.

**ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:**

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