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SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES

DATE: September 26, 2024

REGULATION NUMBER 24-183S

REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 24-180S

SPECIES: Crab

FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 26, 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 East 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 East

Commercial

MFSFCA 26AE and 24B – That portion of the Suquamish U&A in Possession Sound and Port Gardner Bay in Crustacean Management Areas 24B and 26AE that lie south of a line from the northern tip of Gedney Island, east to Priest Point (see attached map 1). Excluding from that area waters that overlies tidelands that constitute a portion of the Tulalip Indian Reservation (see attached map 2).

Open: 8:00AM Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Close: 6:00PM Monday, September 30, 2024

Gear limit: 50 pots per boat

Subsistence

MFSFCA 26AE and 24B south of a line drawn from Camano Head Southeast to Mission Point

Open until the tribal share is harvested or otherwise agreed between Region 2 East Tribes.

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 AREAS DESCRIPTION:



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Region 2 East

Area 24B shall include those waters of Port Susan south of Area 24A and north of a line from Camano Head on Camano Island to the north tip of Gedney Island and from the southern tip of Gedney Island east to the mainland.

Area 26A-E is defined as contiguous waters of 26A north and east of a line 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:

- 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.



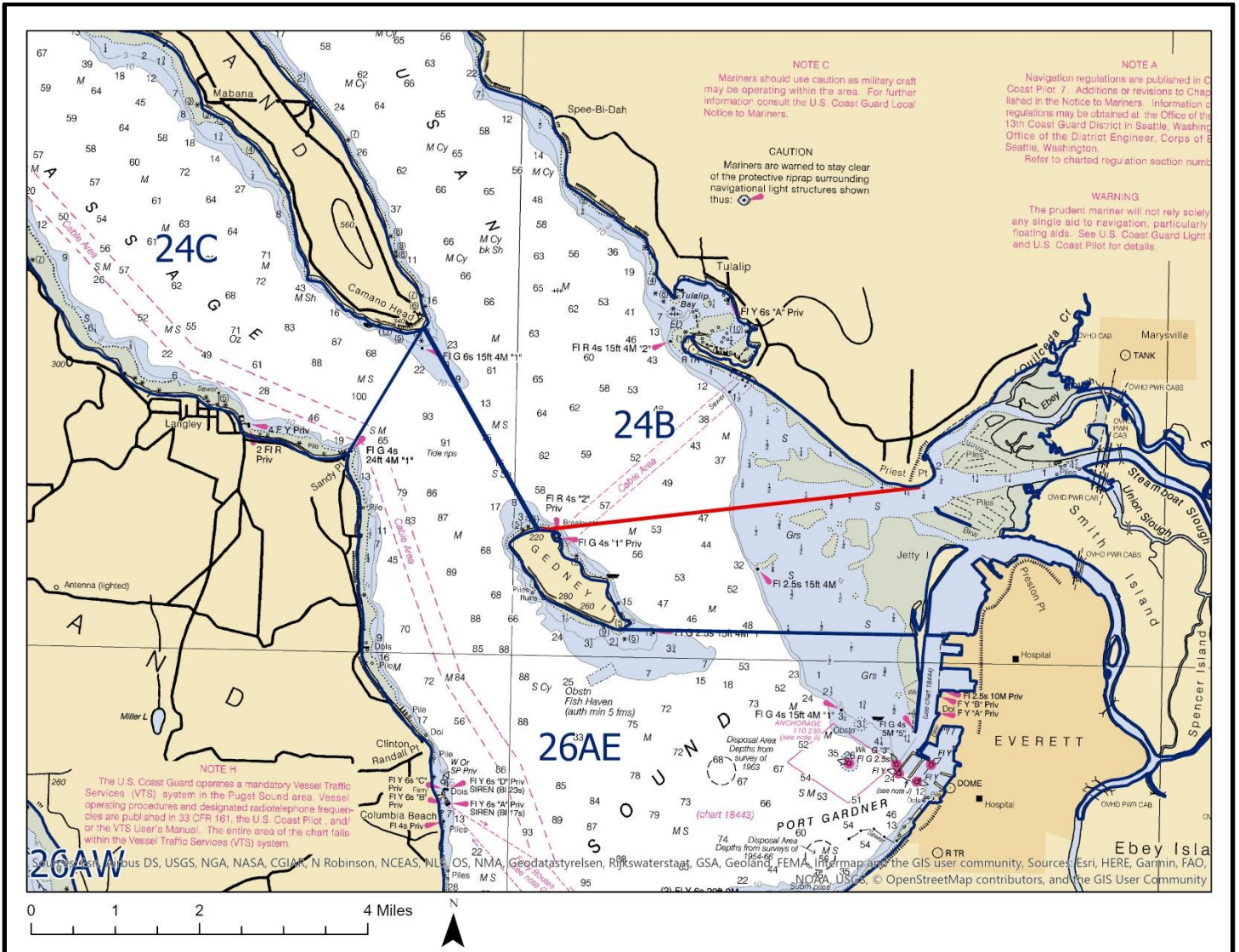
OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

- 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 manner of fishing pursuant to the Suquamish Fisheries Ordinance Chapter 14.

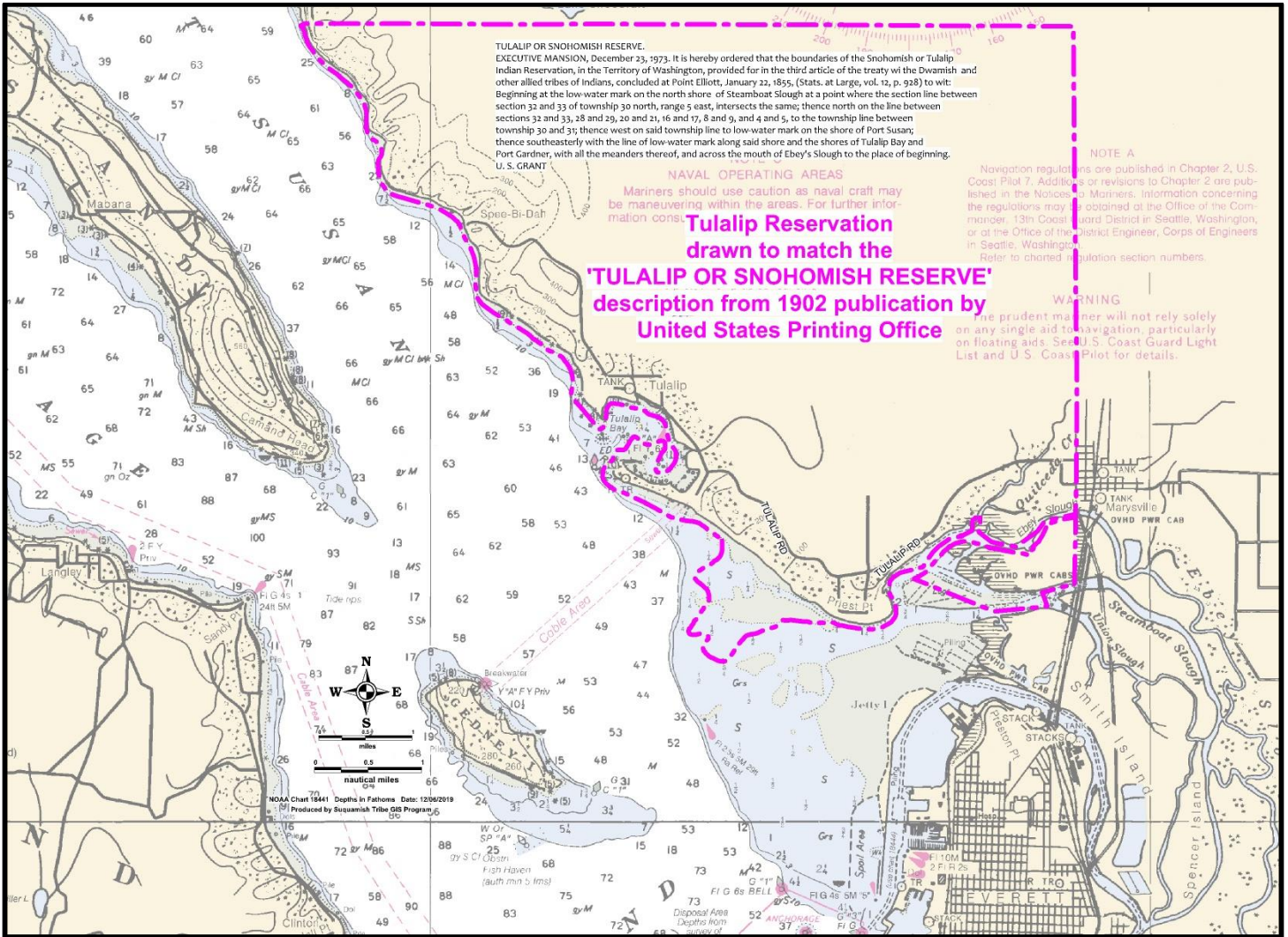


MAP 1





MAP 2



ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:
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