SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES
DATE: June 18, 2026
REGULATION NUMBER 26-105S
REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 26-103S

SPECIES: Dungeness crab *Metacarcinus magister*

FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 18, 2026

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 2026-2027 Region 3 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.

Commercial openings
Region 3
Sub-Region 3-2, Catch Area 25A NE of a line drawn from McCurdy Point to the north tip of Protection Island to Trial Island
Open: 8:00AM Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Close: 4:00PM Thursday, June 25, 2026
Gear limit: 50 pots per boat

Quota: 375,000 pound all Tribes combined

Sub-Region 3-1, Catch Areas 23A and 23B NE of a line drawn from McCurdy Point to the north tip of Protection Island to Trial Island
Open on or after June 17, 2026; specific opening dates will be determined in subsequent regulations.
Gear limit: 30 pots per boat

Quota: 45,000 pound all Tribes combined

EXPECTED EFFORT: Up to 20 boats in all areas combined

Subsistence and ceremonial openings
Sub-Region 3-2, Catch Area 25A NE of a line drawn from McCurdy Point to the north tip of Protection Island to Trial Island
Open: 8:00AM Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Close: April 10, 2027, or when the tribal share is harvested

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 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 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.

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 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:
All rules and manner of fishing pursuant to the latest agreed upon regional Management Plans.

ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:
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