SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES
DATE: June 18, 2026
REGULATION NUMBER 26-106S
REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 26-102S

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 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 Monday, June 29, 2026
Close: 4:00PM Wednesday, July 1st, 2026
Gear limit: 40 traps per boat in all areas combined with a maximum of 20 traps per boat in Catch Area 25D (Port Townsend Bay)

Quota: 225,000 pounds all Tribes combined

Subsistence and Ceremonial
Open: 8:00AM Monday, June 29, 2026
Close: February 15, 2027, or when the tribal share is harvested

EXPECTED EFFORT: Up to 45 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:

- 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.

IN-COMMON RESTRICTIONS:

IN ADDITION TO THOSE RESTRICTIONS ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS, WHICH ALL REGION 2W TRIBES ARE IMPOSING FOR THIS OPENING, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY CONTRARY PROVISIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TRIBAL CODES, ALL APPLY:

1. BARGING OF POTS WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED UP TO ONE HOUR PRIOR TO THE FISHERY OPENING AND AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE FISHERY. IT IS PROHIBITED TO BARGE POTS OR TOW BOATS WITHIN ONE HOUR PRIOR TO OPENING AND DURING THE FISHERY. ONLY OPERATIONAL VESSELS WITH FUNCTIONAL, CONVENTIONAL POT-PULLERS SHALL BE USED FOR TRANSPORTING OR FISHING CRAB GEAR.
2. ONLY 1 PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED PER LICENSED FISHER.
3. EACH BOAT SHALL HAVE 1 SET OF GEAR PER BOAT AND NO MORE THAN 50 POTS TOTAL, INCLUDING A MAXIMUM OF 20 POTS IN CATCH AREA 25D. ZIP TIES ISSUED BT THE TRIBE'S FISHERIES OFFICE MAY ONLY BE USED WHEN TAGS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. ALL TRIBES WITH A
POT TAGGING SYSTEM IN PLACE SHALL USE THE APPROPRIATE TAGS FOR THIS FISHERY.
4. AT LEAST ONE BUOY MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED PER POT WITH THE VESSEL NUMBER OF THE BOAT FISHING REGISTERED TO THAT GEAR.

5. ALL BOATS MUST SET THEIR OWN REGISTERED GEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FISHERY AND MUST PICK UP THEIR OWN REGISTERED GEAR AT THE END OF THE FISHERY. DURING THE FISHERY, **NOT INCLUDING THE INITIAL DROP AND FINAL PICK UP**, A BOAT MAY RUN UP TO TWO SETS OF GEAR AS LONG AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THAT GEAR IN ON BOARD THE BOAT WORKING THE GEAR. ANY ADJUSTMENT TO THE TIMING OF THE
SUMMER AND WINTER SEASONS WILL BE REFLECTED IN UPDATED REGULATIONS.
6. THE USE OF GROUND LINES IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE SUMMER FISHERY.
7. 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 THEWATER 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.
8. FISHERS SHALL NOT HAVE CRAB ON BOARD A VESSEL WHILE RECOVERING POTS AFTER CLOSURE OF THE FISHERY.
9. IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HAVE ON BOARD A VESSEL, PURCHASE OR ATTEMPT TO SELL ANY FEMALE CRAB OR MALE DUNGENESS CRAB LESS THAN 6.25 INCHES MEASURED ACROSS THE BACK, IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE HORNS.
10. IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HAVE ON BOARD A VESSEL, PURCHASE OR ATTEMPT TO SELL SOFT CRAB.
11. THERE SHALL BE NO CRAB IN TRANSIT TO A BUYER MORE THAN 4 HOURS AFTER THE CLOSE OF A FISHERY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED BY THE FISHER TO ENFORCEMENT FOR DELAYS DUE TO LATE CLOSURES, WEATHER, OR MECHANICAL FAILURE REQUIRING TRANSIT OF CRAB TO OCCUR FOUR HOURS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE FISHERY

ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:
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