SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES
DATE: July 5, 2026
REGULATION NUMBER 26-113S
REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 26-104S

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

FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 7, 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 5 (Hood Canal) 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 5
Catch Area 25C
Commercial
Open: 8:00AM Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Close: 8:00PM Wednesday, July 8, 2026
Gear limit: 35 pots per boat
Initial quota: 202,194 pounds

Subsistence
Open: 8:00AM Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Close: 5:00PM February 28, 2027, or when the treaty share is harvested

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 5

Catch Area 25C: Those waters of Hood Canal south of Catch Area 25B and north of the Hood Canal Floating Bridge.

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.
- Harvest and sales of Red rock crab is allowed during opened fisheries.
- It is illegal to use geoduck for crab bait.

ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:
Ryan George
360-265-7511