SUQUAMISH CRAB REGULATION

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS: WDFW, and AFFECTED TRIBES
DATE: July 14, 2026
REGULATION NUMBER 26-118S
REGULATIONS MODIFIED: 26-116S

SPECIES: Crab
FISHERY TYPE: Commercial and C&S

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 14, 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 absence of a state / tribes agreement for the 2026-2027 Region 1 Dungeness 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 1

Commercial

MFSFCA 20B, 22B, 22A, and 21A

Closed areas: 1) Chuckanut Bay, Samish Bay, and Padilla Bay east of a line drawn from the western tip of Samish Island to the westernmost point on Hat Island and southeast to the shore on the main land just to the east of Indian Slough. 2) Bellingham Bay is closed north of a line from Point Francis to Post Point. Hale Pass is closed northwest of a line from Pont Francis to the red and green buoy southeast of Point Francis, then to the northernmost tip of Eliza Island, then along the eastern shore of the island to its southernmost tip, and then north of a line from the southernmost tip of Eliza Island to Carter Point.

Open: 11:00AM Tuesday, July 14, 2026
Close: 3:00PM Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Gear limit: 30 tagged pots per boat – Tag color is WHITE or RED

Subsistence

MFSFCA 20B, 22B, 22A, and 21A (Same closed section as above)

Open: 11:00AM Tuesday, July 14, 2026
Close: March 31, 2027, or when the tribal share is harvested, whichever comes first.

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 TARGET: Approximately 350,000 pounds all Tribes combined

EXPECTED EFFORT: Up to 40 boats
RESTRICTIONS:

1. Fishers must have in their possession at all times a valid Suquamish fishing ID with current year shellfish sticker on the back.
2. Subsistence and ceremonial harvest requires the issuance of a permit by the Suquamish Fisheries Department.
3. All crab retained for personal consumption or gifts must be recorded on fish tickets as take home.
4. No harvest one half hour before sunrise and one half hour after sunset is allowed.
5. All gear must be removed from the water prior to the time of the fishery closure.
6. All crab rejected from the buyer must be recorded on fish tickets as weigh back.
7. 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.
8. It is unlawful to use geoduck for bait

IN-COMMON RESTRICTIONS: In addition to those restrictions above, the following restrictions, which all Region 1 tribes are imposing for this opening, notwithstanding any contrary provisions in their respective tribal codes, all apply:

1. It is prohibited to barge pots or tow boats for the purposes of hauling gear before, during, or after the fishery opening.
2. Each boat shall have no more than 30 pots.
3. All buoys must be marked with the vessel number of the boat fishing that gear.
4. All registered boats must set and pick their own registered gear.
5. The use of ground lines is not permitted during the summer fishery.
6. 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 the water 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.
7. Fishers shall not have crab on board a vessel while recovering pots after closure of the fishery.
8. It is unlawful to have on board a vessel, purchase or attempt to sell a female crab or male crab less

than 6.25 inches measure across the back in front of the horns.

9. It is unlawful to have on board a vessel, purchase or attempt to sell soft crab.
10. There shall be no crab in transit to a buyer more than 4-hours after the close of a fishery.
11. A different boat cannot engage in the harvest of another boat's registered pots and crab under any circumstances. If a boat breaks down, a different boat may help the fisher retrieve the gear at the end of the fishery.
12. Pots cannot be pulled after a fishery closing time if crab is on board the vessel. Crabbers must report all pots left in the water after closing time to the Suquamish Fisheries Enforcement, head to port to sell crab catch, then plan on retrieving lost/ leftover gear. All crab pulled after closing time must be returned to the water at the pot location.

GEAR:

- Each unattended pot must be attached to a surface buoy which is neither red and white or yellow in color. 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.
- 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.

HARVEST AREA DESCRIPTION:

Region 1

Area 20A includes those waters of Puget Sound north of a line projected from Village Point, Lummi Island through the navigation buoy just east of Matia Island thence to the buoy at Clements Reef thence to the easternmost point of Patos Island and from the westernmost point of Patos Island due east to the international

boundary; and west of a line from Point Francis through the marker north of Inati Bay, Lummi Island to Lummi Island.
Area 20B includes those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 20A, westerly of a line from Lummi Island through Lummi Rocks to the northernmost tip of Sinclair Island, and northerly of a line from the northernmost tip of Sinclair Island to Lawrence Point on Orcas Island and a line which runs from Steep Point on Orcas Island to Limestone Point on San Juan Island and then to Green Point on the eastern tip of Speiden Island and from the western tip of Speiden Island true west to the international boundary.
Area 21A includes those waters of Puget Sound southerly and easterly of Areas 20A and 20B, and westerly of a line from William Point to Governor's Point, and northerly of a line from William Point to the southernmost tip of Vendovi Island to the Sinclair Island light.
Area 21B includes those waters of Puget Sound easterly of and adjacent to Area 21A.
Area 22B includes those waters of Puget Sound south of Area 21A, east of 22A, and north of the railroad bridges at Swinomish Channel.**Area 20B** includes those waters of Puget Sound southerly of Area 20A, westerly of a line from Lummi Island through Lummi Rocks to the northernmost tip of Sinclair Island, and northerly of a line from the northernmost tip of Sinclair Island to Lawrence Point on Orcas Island and a line which runs from Steep Point on Orcas Island to Limestone Point on San Juan Island and then to Green Point on the eastern tip of Speiden Island and from the western tip of Speiden Island true west to the international boundary.

Area 22A includes those waters of Puget Sound south of Area 20B, westerly of 122° 40' W between Sinclair Island and Fidalgo Island and the Deception Pass Bridge; northerly 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, then easterly to a point one nautical mile south of the buoy at Lawson Reef and then due east to Whidbey Island.Region 2 West

ENFORCEMENT CONTACT:
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