



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Oregon Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit Holders, Processors, Buyers, and Interested Persons,



The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is sending you this notice to provide you with information on three commercial crab management topics. These include: upcoming Tri-State meeting agenda items, crab fishery outreach and advisors, and 2018 ODFW crab industry meetings.

Tri-State Meeting – July 24-25, 2018

The ODFW will be participating in a Tri-State Dungeness Crab Committee (Tri-State) meeting on July 24-25th, 2018, to discuss crab management issues concerning the West Coast's commercial Dungeness crab fisheries. Coast wide recommendations are considered through Tri-State which is comprised of industry participants and state agency representatives from Washington, Oregon and California. The following topics are likely to be on the agenda:

- ❖ Season opening issues
 - Consistent application of fair start provision (30-day wait period when an area is delayed) within the Tri-State region
 - Allowing for three areas with different opening dates based on meat yield (pick-out tests) within the Tri-State region (**see discussion below**)
 - Adding specificity to crab processing guidelines for pre-season meat yield testing
- ❖ Crab Biotoxin Management
 - Evisceration as a tool for continued harvest – Oregon's progress
 - Next Steps for Tri-State Biotoxin plan
- ❖ Reducing risk of whale entanglements in west coast crab gear

Prior to this meeting we will be working with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee (identified below) to discuss Oregon industry views on the season opening issues and develop alternatives to discuss with the other states. We welcome input on any of these issues (directly to us or through your port's advisors) if you have options or considerations you would like us to evaluate. In particular, we are soliciting fleet input on whether Oregon supports more than one line in the Tri-State protocol, with special consideration of how additional lines will interact with the application of the fair start provision. Options to consider include:

1. **Status quo** - Only one line can be drawn in the tri-state region, resulting in no more than two areas with different opening dates based on meat yield testing.
2. **Two lines** - Allow for two lines to be drawn in the Tri-State region resulting in up to three areas with different opening dates based on meat yield testing.

When evaluating these options, keep in mind that due to tribal agreements in Washington and current statutory restrictions in California, any lines implemented within the Tri-State area would most likely be in Oregon or at state borders at this time.

Crab Fishery Management Outreach – Advisory committees and more

ODFW incorporates a large degree of agency, industry and public involvement when making crab management decisions. We disseminate information and gather input from the crab industry through public meetings, surveys, workshops, mailings, and advisory bodies. The Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee (ODCAC) was formed to foster industry input on management decisions and is comprised of harvesters and processors from all of the major crabbing ports in Oregon. Participation is voluntary and we try to have representation of all sectors of the industry by including persons from all ports and a diversity of business plan types. We ask members to actively engage with the crab industry in their ports and share the full diversity of perspectives as much as possible. We also have a subset of ODCAC advisors that assist us in representing Oregon’s contingent at Tri-State meetings with the other states. The current ODCAC and Tri-State advisors are as follows (TR-Tri-State Representative, A-Alternate Tri-State Representative, and O-ODCAC advisor only):

Astoria	John Corbin (TR), Al Gann (A)
Garibaldi	Bob Browning (A), Emily Dunn (TR)
Newport	Bob Eder (TR), Al Pazar (O), Pogy Lapham (O), Bob Spelbrink (A)
Charleston*	Mike Lane (O), Rex Leach (A), Scott Hartzell (O)
Port Orford**	
Brookings	Bernie Lindley (O), Bill Manning (O), Joe Speir (TR), Todd Whaley (A)
Processors/Buyers	Scott Adams (O), Jerry Bates (O), Susan Chambers (O), Doug Heater (O), Steve Fick (O), Mike Manning (O), Dave Wright (O)
Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission	Hugh Link (O)

*Charleston currently does not have a designated primary Tri-State advisor.

**Port Orford currently does not have any crab advisors.

If you are interested in **actively participating on this committee and/or as a Tri-State representative and feel that your interests are not currently represented**, particularly if you from Port Orford, Astoria or Garibaldi as these ports currently have the lowest number of participants, please give us a call to discuss any time.

2018 ODFW Fall Crab Public Meetings

To follow-up on the Tri-State meeting discussions with the Oregon crab industry at large ODFW is planning a series of regional Dungeness crab industry meetings to get your input and continue dialogue on current crab management issues. We anticipate discussion of management alternatives to minimize the risk of whale entanglements developed by the Oregon Whale Entanglement working group, which you received a survey about this winter and spring. Information about this group and the survey can be found at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clatsop/oregon-whale-entanglement-working-group>. Additional information and details about these coastal meetings will be distributed later this summer.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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