

July 15, 2015



PERMITTED POST-SEASON DERELICT GEAR PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2015

- ◆ **The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the ocean and Columbia River closes August 14th**
- ◆ **All crab gear must be out of the water by August 28th**
- ◆ **The permitted Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Program begins early September and allows participants to keep or sell all recovered Dungeness crab gear**
- ◆ **An unlimited amount of derelict crab gear can still be retrieved Aug 29th - Oct 31 by any commercially licensed vessel but can not be kept or sold unless participating in the permitted post-season recovery program**

Why does Oregon have a Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Program?

In order to further incentivize removal of lost and abandoned crab gear from the ocean, the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission supported [House Bill 3262](#), which exempts crab pots from Oregon's personal property law if they are recovered in a permitted recovery program at least 15 days after the end of season. This ultimately allows the permitted gear retrievers to decide what to do with any retrieved gear (i.e. keep, sell, etc.). Under the authority of HB 3262 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted regulations to allow the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Permits to commercially licensed vessels to retrieve derelict or abandoned gear post-season.

When does the program start?

Permits will be issued to applicants around September 1st and be valid for approximately four weeks.

When can you apply for a permit?

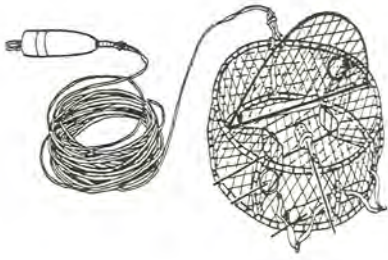
Owners or operators of commercially licensed vessels can apply for a Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Permit at any time throughout the season, but the permits will not be issued until after Aug. 29th each year. To apply for a permit call Kelly Corbett at 541.867.0300 ext. 244.

What does a Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Permit allow you to do with retrieved gear?

Dungeness crab gear retrieved under the authority of a Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Permit may be disposed of at the permit holder's discretion after documenting retrieval of the gear in accordance with permit conditions.

What are the conditions of a Post-Season Derelict Recovery Permit?

Failure of the vessel operator or crew to abide by the terms of the permit will result in termination of the permit and ability to participate in the program. The conditions of the permits this year will include:



- **Permit** – The permit must be onboard the fishing vessel during all recovery operations and is not transferrable to any other vessel.
- **Notification** – The vessel operator must notify ODFW at least 24-hours prior to the vessel leaving the dock to retrieve gear. Notifications must be given during regular business hours, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8AM – 5PM. The vessel operator must also notify ODFW at least 2 hours prior to returning to the dock following a gear recovery operation even if no gear was recovered during the trip. Notifications can be made by calling 541.867.0300 ext. 244.
- **Area** – Recovery operations are restricted to Oregon state waters and the Pacific Ocean in federal waters south of an east-west line extending westward at 46° 15' 00" North Latitude (Oregon/Washington border) and north of an east-west line at 42° 00' 00" North Latitude (Oregon/California border).
- **Logbook** – The vessel operator is responsible for maintaining a logbook in an accurate and truthful manner and in accordance with the instructions contained therein. Complete, legible and accurate data records must be collected and provided to ODFW approved staff upon returning with recovered gear. Additional log pages may be obtained from ODFW offices in Astoria, Newport, Charleston and Brookings or by making photocopies of a blank log page.
- **Gear Registration** – All gear recovered during permitted gear recovery must remain on the vessel and remain in the condition it was recovered until the gear is registered and tagged by ODFW approved staff. Tampering with recovered gear, including removing pot tags, buoys or other markings prior to registering the gear will result in termination of the permit. All completed post-recovery registration forms will be scanned in and posted on ODFW's website to allow any previous gear owners interested in negotiating for their previously owned pots to contact retrieving vessels. Giving first right of refusal to the previous gear owner is strongly encouraged through this program to continue to foster good relations within the commercial fishing community.
- **Harvest prohibited** - All crab and non-crab species taken with the retrieved gear must be immediately returned to the ocean.
- **Recreational crabbing and retrieval of recreational crab gear prohibited**- recreational harvest of all crab species and retrieval of recreational crab gear is prohibited during retrieval trips.

What if you are unable to get your Dungeness crab gear out of the water before Aug 29th?

At any time during the season you can request, and the Department may grant, a one-time waiver allowing retrieval of permitted Dungeness crab gear to shore by another crab permitted vessel provided that undue hardship such as loss of the vessel, death or permanent disability has prevented retrieval of gear. To request a one-time retrieval waiver please call ODFW Licensing office at 503.947.6116.

ODFW may also grant crab permit holders emergency exemptions from the gear recovery program for Dungeness crab gear that was unable to be removed from the ocean as a result of undue hardship. Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the Marine Resources Program in Newport by August 29th of each year. To apply for an exemption please call Kelly Corbett at 541.867.0300 ext.244.

Where can you find information on derelict gear that was retrieved through the program?

All of the completed post-recovery registration forms will be posted on ODFW's website to allow any previous gear owners interested in negotiating for their retrieved pots to contact retrieving vessels themselves.

[http:// www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/)

What if you have more questions about the program?

Please call Kelly Corbett at 541.867.0300 ext. 244.

