



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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July 5, 2019

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 inform you of temporary rule changes effective for the end of this current crab season (2018-19):

1. **The two-week post-season “clean-up” period has been eliminated.** This means that all Dungeness crab gear will be required to be out of the water by August 14, 2019.
2. **The amount of derelict gear that may be retrieved from August 15 through August 29 has been increased from 50 pots to an unlimited amount.** This means from August 15 through October 31 an unlimited amount of derelict gear may be retrieved by any commercially licensed vessel.

We are taking these actions to reduce risk of whale entanglement in crab gear during the two weeks when harvest of crab has been prohibited, increase derelict gear allowances during this time and move up the initiation of post-season derelict gear recovery efforts. These actions will reduce vertical lines in the ocean that pose an entanglement risk to whales.

**The 2019 post-season derelict gear program will start on August 30<sup>th</sup> and any non-exempted gear left in the water will be subject to collection by permitted derelict gear recovery vessels.** This is the earliest the permitted post-season derelict gear program can start by statute. The permitted recovery program allows participants to keep or sell all recovered Dungeness crab gear. Detailed information about this program is located on the second page of this notice.

If you are unable to get your Dungeness crab gear out of the water by August 14 you can request 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, permanent disability has prevented retrieval of gear. To request a one-time retrieval waiver please call the ODFW Licensing office at 503-947-6116. Requests will be considered in a timely manner.

Additionally, the same as in all years of the derelict gear program, ODFW will consider requests for emergency exemptions from the permitted recovery program for Dungeness crab gear that was unable to be retrieved by the permit holder, as a result of undue hardship (defined above). Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the Marine Resources Program in Newport by August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments or concerns at any time.

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Program Manager  
541-867-0300 ext. 226

Troy Buell  
State Fishery Manager  
541-867-0300 ext. 225

Kelly Corbett  
Commercial Crab Project Leader  
541-867-0300 ext. 244

July 5, 2019



## ODFW NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS



### PERMITTED POST-SEASON DERELICT GEAR PROGRAM

- ◆ The permitted Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Program that allows participants to keep or sell all recovered Dungeness crab gear will begin August 30<sup>th</sup> and be open through October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the ocean and Columbia River closes August 14<sup>th</sup> and all crab gear must be out of the water by August 14<sup>th</sup>. The two-week gear clean-up period was removed by temporary rule effective this season.
- ◆ An unlimited amount of derelict crab gear can still be retrieved August 15 - October 31 by any commercially licensed vessel but can not be kept or sold unless participating in the permitted post-season recovery program.
- ◆ Locations of derelict gear reported to ODFW after August 14<sup>th</sup> will be posted on ODFW's post-season derelict gear program webpage.
- ◆ The ODFW post-season derelict gear website is <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/psdgrp.asp>.

#### When does the program start?

Permits will be effective from August 30<sup>th</sup> through October 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### 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. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

To apply for a permit call **Daniel Sund at 541.867.0300 ext. 267**.

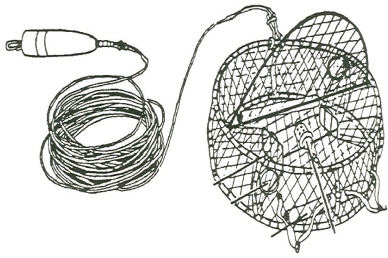
#### What does a Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Permit allow you to do with retrieved gear?

Dungeness crab gear retrieved under the authority of a Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Permit may be used, sold, or 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 the notification number listed on the permit for the port where the retrieved gear will be landed.

- **Area** – Recovery operations are restricted to Oregon state waters and the Pacific Ocean in federal waters between 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 by Aug 14<sup>th</sup>?**

At any time during the season you can request 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 the ODFW Licensing office at 503.947.6116. Requests will be considered in a timely manner.

ODFW will consider requests for emergency exemptions from the gear recovery program for Dungeness crab gear that was unable to be retrieved by the permit holder, as a result of undue hardship (defined above). Requests for exemptions must be submitted to the Marine Resources Program in Newport by August 23<sup>rd</sup>. To apply for an exemption please call **Daniel Sund at 541.867.0300 ext.267.**

### **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 post season derelict gear webpage to allow any previous gear owners interested in negotiating for their retrieved pots to contact retrieving vessels themselves.

### **What if you have locations of derelict gear?**

Anyone can report the locations of any derelict gear after August 14<sup>th</sup> by contacting the number below. All reported locations of derelict gear will be posted on ODFW's post-season derelict gear webpage. Gear retrievers should contact the number below if they have any updates on the reported gear (i.e. they retrieved it or it is no longer there) so that we can update the reports on the website.

### **What if you have more questions about the program?**

Please call **Daniel Sund at 541.867.0300 ext. 267.**