



ODFW Industry Notice

Commercial Fishing

Industry Participants

July 23, 2026

Marine Resources Program
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365
www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP

GET INVOLVED TO CLEAN UP DERELICT CRAB GEAR NOW!

1. Report all derelict commercial crab pots in the ocean to ODFW
2. Recover derelict commercial crab pots, see details below on in and out of season allowances

Permitted Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Program (PSDGRP) Overview

- The permitted Post-Season Derelict Gear Recovery Program that allows participants to keep or sell all recovered Dungeness crab gear will begin August 31, 2026 and go through October 9, 2026. Please note that staff will not be available to check in derelict gear over the Labor Day weekend.
- The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the ocean and Columbia River closes August 14 and all crab gear must be out of the water by August 14.
- An unlimited amount of derelict crab gear can still be retrieved August 15 - October 31 by any commercially licensed vessel but cannot be kept or sold unless participating in the permitted post-season recovery program.
- The ODFW PSDGRP webpage is <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/psdgrp.asp>. On this webpage you will find:
 - The full list of the requirements to participate in the PSDGRP
 - Completed post-recovery registration forms of all crab gear recovered and registered through the program
 - All locations of derelict gear reported to ODFW

Derelict Gear Recovery Frequently Asked Questions

When can you apply for a PSDGRP 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 August 24. To apply for a permit call or email Cathleen Vestfals at 541-961-6924, Cathleen.D.Vestfals@odfw.oregon.gov.

What does a PSDGRP 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. Permitted gear retrievers are not required to sell or give back the gear to the previous owner; however, giving first right of refusal to the previous gear owner is strongly encouraged to continue to foster good relations within the commercial fishing community. All registered gear recovered by PSDGRP participants that is unmarked and unrepairable should be disposed of by the gear retrievers as soon as possible.

What if you are unable to get your Dungeness crab gear out of the water by August 14?

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. Also, any vessel can request a one-time retrieval waiver to have another vessel help retrieve their gear out of the water the last two weeks of the season (August 1-14). 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 crab gear that was unable to be retrieved by the permit holder, because of undue hardship (defined above). Requests for exemptions are requested to be submitted to the Marine Resources Program in Newport by August 20. To apply for an exemption please call Cathleen Vestfals at 541-961-6924.

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

All 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 to report to ODFW?

Anyone can report the locations of any derelict gear after August 14 by contacting the numbers below. All reported locations of derelict gear will be posted on ODFW's post-season derelict gear webpage. Gear retrievers should contact us (information 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 derelict crab gear recovery?

Call or email Jill Smith at 503-934-3568, Jill.M.Smith@odfw.oregon.gov or Cathleen Vestfals at 541-961-6924, Cathleen.D.Vestfals@odfw.oregon.gov.