Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor

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Oregon Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit Holders and Interested Persons,

In partnership with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the commercial crabbing industry, the first round of Oregon pre-season Dungeness crab quality and domoic acid testing was conducted south of Heceta Head during November 5-6. Meat recovery results are posted here and domoic acid results are posted here. The minimum meat recovery rate to be met in each test area is 24% south of Cascade Head (no rounding allowed in any area). In Round 1, all Oregon meat recovery areas tested (areas 50-G, H, I, J, K, and L) met meat recovery criteria. Domoic acid results from crab collected in crab harvest areas 50-C, D, G, H, I, J, K, and L and there are no violative crab viscera results at this time. However, there was detection of domoic acid in crab samples from several areas, including one area 50-D crab at 24 parts per million (ppm) in the viscera, approaching the 30 ppm regulatory threshold.

Due to weather delays, Round 1 of Oregon pre-season Dungeness crab quality and domoic acid testing is being conducted north of Heceta Head on November 19-20. While crab meat recovery rates for these areas may be available prior to the Round 1 test fishery completion date of November 22 prescribed in the Tri-State Pre-Season Testing Protocol, domoic acid test results will not be available until November 24 or 25. In addition, Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee members expressed concern about the domoic acid levels in the test results available and requested that ODFW and ODA consider the feasibility and logistics of additional domoic acid testing.

Based on the results in hand and consultations with industry advisors, ODA, and Washington and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife, there was Tri-State agreement to delay the ocean commercial Dungeness crab season in Oregon until at least December 16. This delay will allow completion of domoic acid testing off Washington and Oregon, avoid disrupting traditional fishing patterns, and prevent a disorderly start to the season. If results from the first round of Washington and Oregon test fishing and any additional domoic acid testing meet crab meat recovery and domoic acid criteria, the Oregon fishery will open December 16. If not, we will reinitiate consultations to decide on a season opening structure, with announcement targeted for December 7.

We thank everyone involved with testing this preseason and appreciate upcoming testing efforts to help us ensure that Oregon Dungeness crab are of excellent quality and safe to consume.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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