

To: Oregon Commercial Dungeness Crab Industry

Subject: Fishery News

Date: October 27, 2011

From: Kelly Corbett

Commercial ocean Dungeness crab landings into Oregon ports during the 2010-11 season totaled 21.3 million pounds from 7,619 separate landings (Figure 1). The Newport area led all ports with over 7.5 million pounds landed, followed closely by the Charleston and Astoria areas with 5.3 and 4.3 million pounds landed respectively (Figure 2). Ex-vessel value of all crab landings into Oregon during the 2010-11 season totaled over \$48.9 million.



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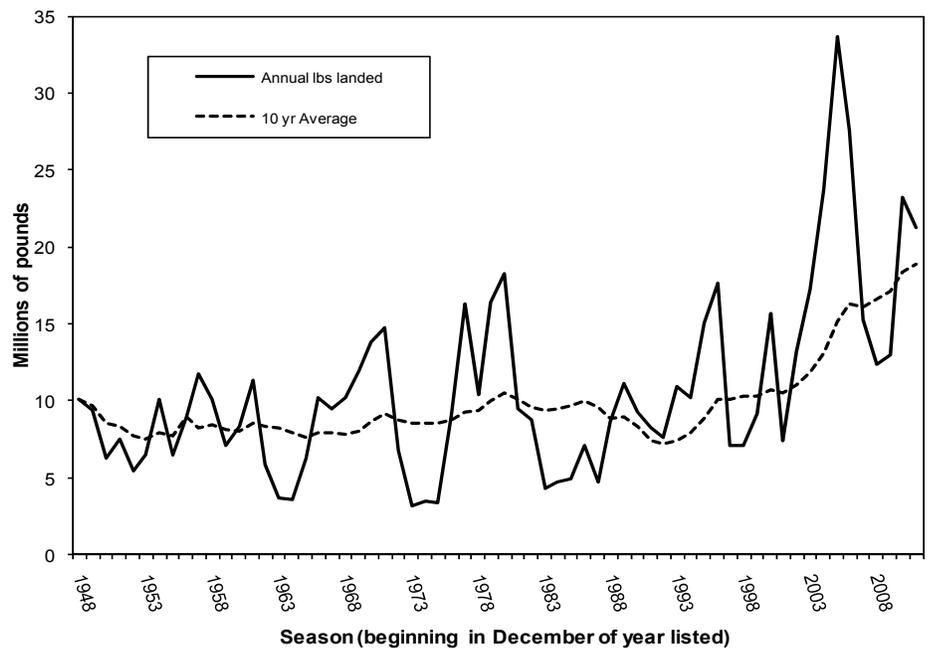


Figure 1. (above) Landings (millions of lbs) per Dungeness crab season compared to the 10 year average.

Pot declarations (based on vessels' pot limit) totaled 121,500 for the 333 Oregon permitted vessels that made landings into Oregon during the 2010-11 crab season. The number of pots is slightly higher than the 117,400 pots utilized the previous season, but substantially lower than the 200,000 estimated pots declared the year before pot limits were implemented (Figure 3).

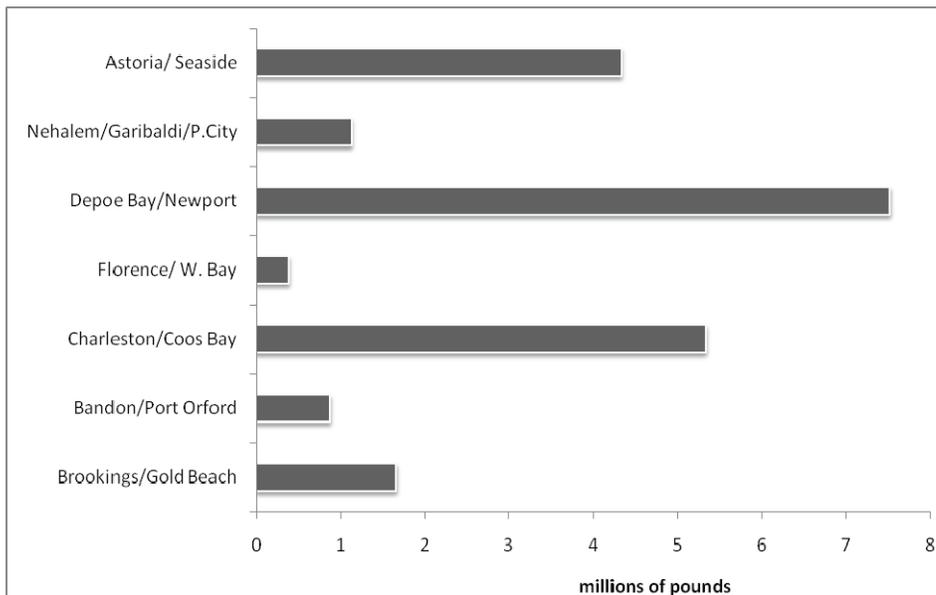
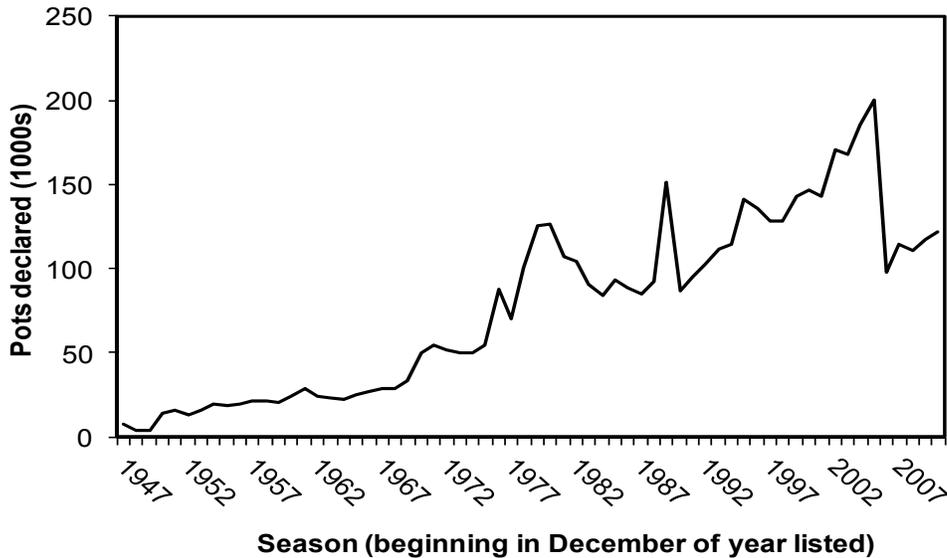


Figure 2. Landings in millions of pounds by port group for the 2010-11 Dungeness crab season.



Month	Million lbs.	Ave. \$ / lb
Dec	10.41	1.84
Jan	7.17	2.39
Feb	1.60	2.88
Mar	0.73	3.59
Apr	0.69	4.13
May	0.35	4.13
Jun	0.18	3.70
Jul	0.09	3.20
Aug	0.05	3.01
Total	21.26	2.30

Figure 3. Pots declared by year in the Oregon Dungeness crab fishery. Boats' pot limits were used beginning in 2006-07 crab season.

Table 1. Landings in millions of pounds and average price by month for the 2010-11 Ocean Dungeness crab season.

The 2010-11 season started with a negotiated price of \$1.675/lb for the first three days of the season, however a price of \$1.75/lb was applied retroactively to all of those first landings. The season ended with a weighted average price \$2.30/lb; a 0.37 cent per pound increase from last year's average.

Rule Changes

A number of rule changes were presented and discussed at the 2011 Crab Summit this summer that affect the Dungeness crab fishery. **Three will be implemented for this upcoming crab season** as temporary rules. Rule changes 1 and 2 below were developed to enhance the OSP's ability to effectively enforce the regulations of the fishery and were unanimously agreed upon at the Summit as necessary and ready for implementation. The third regulation change listed was brought forward by industry at the Summit and we have agreed, along with OSP, to move forward with rule modification to be in effect for the 2011-12 crab season.

1. Hold inspection date flexibility (OAR 635-005-0045) – the current rule language requiring vessels to obtain a hold inspection restricts officials to conduct all of the hold inspections on a single day, November 30. Vessels not receiving a hold inspection on Nov. 30 are prohibited from participating in the fishery until after January 1. The change will allow officials to conduct hold inspections beginning on the day prior to the opening of the season and by appointment any day thereafter, thus allowing flexibility and the opportunity for vessels that miss the first inspection day to participate in the fishery prior to January 1.

2. Rings need buoy tags (throughout Dungeness crab OARs) – the current rules for Dungeness crab gear in the Ocean Dungeness crab fishery do not require attachment of buoy tags to crab rings. The intent of pot limits was to cap the amount of Dungeness crab gear used by a vessel regardless of the type of gear, ring or pot. The change will require fishermen to affix buoy tags to their ring gear in order to legally fish with them for Dungeness crab in the ocean.

3. Retention of crab from derelict gear (OAR 635-005-0055) - the current rule requires crab from all derelict gear picked up in-season to be returned to the ocean. This rule may discourage fishermen from picking up derelict gear and participants asked for this rule to be modified at the 2011 Summit. The change will allow fishermen to retain crab from any derelict crab gear brought in during the ocean crab season.

In the spring of 2012 we are planning on taking these three temporary rules to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for their consideration to make permanent. Along with these we are also considering two additional rule changes that would not go into effect until the 2012-13 crab season. They are as follows:

1. Transit to and from other states' crab fisheries (OAR 635-005-0055) – the current rule regarding having untagged gear on board when transiting simply requires the vessel be authorized to participate in the Dungeness crab fishery of an adjacent state. This allows a loophole for bi/tri-state permit holders to transit between ports in Oregon with untagged gear onboard when they are not actually enroute to participate in or returning from participating in another state's crab fishery. The proposed change would require fishermen to be actively enroute to participate in, or returning from participating in, an adjacent states' fishery in order to have untagged gear aboard their vessel.

2. Barging another vessels gear (OAR 635-006-1015) – the current rule allows any vessel with or without a crab permit to barge gear for another crab permitted vessel at any time throughout the year. This creates loopholes for vessels to tamper with other vessels gear under the guise of barging. Two options are currently being considered for modifying this rule:

Option 1 - restrict barging by crab permitted vessels to the first 15 days of the crab season.

Non-crab permitted vessels could still barge gear at anytime.

Option 2 - restrict all barging by any vessel (permitted or not) to the first 15 days of the crab season.

We will be reviewing these two rules once more with our Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee (ODCAC) in the early spring and then taking our final recommendations to the Commission shortly thereafter. Let us or your port's ODCAC member(s) know how you feel about these changes so that we can make changes that best represent the needs and opinions of the entire fleet.

Area	Meat Recovery %
Astoria	18.1
Garibaldi	20.6
Newport	21.1
Coos Bay	25.0
Floras Creek	18.0
Port Orford	19.1
Brookings	16.6

2011 Pre-season Testing Results - Round 1

The first round of preseason Dungeness crab quality testing was conducted along the entire Oregon coast from October 17th - 19th. Results indicate that the crab from the Coos Bay test area already satisfy the meat recovery criteria required in the Tri-State protocols. The six remaining test areas (Astoria, Garibaldi, Newport, Floras Creek, Port Orford and Brookings) will be retested in early November. During that same time, crab will be collected for toxin testing by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. I would like to thank everyone that helped out with getting round one successfully completed and if you are interested in volunteering for round two, give the ODCC a call as soon as possible, 541-267-5810.

Talking Crab Management

There are several ways for you to voice your opinions and ideas to the Department on issues of interest and importance to you on the management of the Dungeness crab fishery. They include:

Contacting your Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee representative(s):

The ODFW Crab Management Program regularly seeks input from the fleet by consulting with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee (ODCAC) on all relevant crab policy issues. Membership on this committee (listed below) is entirely voluntary and we have tried to represent all sectors of the fleet by having persons from all ports and a diversity of business plan types. We conduct the meetings with a conference call option to accommodate advisors at sea or who are unable

to attend in person, and all of the meetings are open to the public. If you have a crab policy issue to discuss, please contact your port representative(s) or contact us here in Newport for details for the next ODCAC meeting.

The current members of the ODCAC are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Astoria – John Corbin (TR)
Al Gann (TA) | Charleston –Tom Nowlin (TR)
Rex Leach (TA)
Jimmy Burns
Mike Lane | Processors – Jack Emmons
Steve Fick
Dave Wright
Mike Manning
Doug Heater
Jerry Bates
Susan Chambers |
| Garibaldi – Darus Peake (TR)
Emily Dunn (TA) | Port Orford – Chris Aiello (TR)
Blane Steinmetz (TA) | |
| Newport – Bob Eder (TR)
Bob Spelbrink (TA)
Jeff Feldner
Poggy Lapham | Brookings - Joe Speir (TR)
Todd Whaley (TA)
Bernie Lindley | Agency – Nick Furman, ODCC
Lt. Anderson, OSP |
| Florence – Al Pazar | | |
| Win. Bay – Scott Hartzel | *TR – Tri-State Representative
*TA – Tri-State Alternate Representative | |

Participating in biennial Crab Summits:

Every other year ODFW co-sponsors, with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Crab Summits to share information and discuss issues facing your fishery. These discussions ultimately help guide management decisions for the fishery into the future so your participation is critical. The next Crab Summit will be in the summer of 2013 and it's never too early to get your issues on the list for discussion.

Contacting your ODFW Commercial Crab Program staff:

We are always interested in hearing from you about your fishery and the issues that are important to you. Please give us a call or stop by our office in Newport anytime.

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Buoy Tag Recycling



Unfortunately your old buoy tags still cannot be recycled through your local curbside recycling programs. However, there is a company near Salem that will recycle them, and will do so for free! This company primarily uses plastics from the agricultural industry and manufactures items such as plastic railroad ties. Starting this year, instead of having bins scattered around the ports, mostly collecting trash, you can bring your buoy tags in to any ODFW offices in the major coastal ports and we will transport them in bulk to the recycling center.

Buoy tag colors for the 2010-11 season:

Tier 200 – Green
Tier 300 – Gray
Tier 500 – Brown
Replacements – Blue

Replacement buoy tags issued each year:

2006-07 – 3647 tags
2007-08 – 4273 tags
2008-09 – 3005 tags
2009-10 – 3907 tags
2010-11 – 4371 tags

Have a great 2011-12 crab season!

*Please send all questions, comments and content recommendations on this newsletter to:
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