



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Marine Resources Program

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March 8, 2023

Oregon Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Permit Holders, Processors, Buyers, and Interested Persons:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is sending this industry notice as a reminder of the marine life entanglement minimization measures that will be in place again this year beginning May 1. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) adopted this set of regulations to address marine life entanglements in September 2020 and it will be the third season of their implementation.

### **Marine Life Entanglement Minimization Measures Effective May 1:**

- 1. Reduced pot limits by 20%** - The amount of Dungeness crab gear allocated to each Dungeness crab permit is reduced by 20%. This means a 500 pot permitted vessel can have up to 400 pots, a 300 pot permitted vessel can have up to 240 pots and a 200 pot permitted vessel can have up to 160 pots in the water beginning May 1.
- 2. Required late-season buoy tag in addition to primary season tag** - All Dungeness crab gear in the water must have a secondary tag attached to it in addition to the primary tag beginning May 1. Late-season tags are available for purchase from the Department at cost (\$1.15 per tag) but cannot be attached to gear in the water before **April 10**. All commercial landings of crab after May 1 are prohibited unless late-season tags are purchased and attached.

**\*\*Please Note** - Permit holders are not required to purchase their full allotment of late-season tags and may just purchase the number of tags they intend to fish. The late-season buoy tag order form is included as a separate attachment in this notice. **Late-season tags are available for in-person pickup at the Salem headquarters office** but will not be shipped to another ODFW office for in-person pick-up. If ordering late-season tags, you will need to allow plenty of time for shipping to a physical address. Buoy tags must be signed for and cannot be sent to PO boxes or unattended addresses.

- 3. 40-fathom depth restriction** - No Dungeness crab gear is allowed outside of the 40-fathom regulatory line beginning May 1. Coordinates for the 40-fathom line can be found at Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations Part 660 Section 71 or downloaded at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/data/depth-based-boundary-lines-west-coast>. Also, a map of the plotted 40-fathom regulatory line coordinates can be found at [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/docs/2021/40fm\\_HarvestAreas\\_ALL.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/docs/2021/40fm_HarvestAreas_ALL.pdf).
- 4. Derelict gear retrieval** - Any gear in the ocean after May 1 without a late-season buoy tag or outside 40 fathoms can be retrieved under in-season derelict gear provisions.

**\*\*Please Note** - Beginning May 1, retention of crab is not allowed from any derelict gear outside of 40 fathoms or that does not have a valid late-season tag attached.

- 5. The set of provisions above sunsets after this crab season (2022-23) without further OFWC regulatory action** - ODFW is evaluating the effectiveness of these measures and will provide recommendations to the OFWC later this year to continue or adjust them for the future. Recent notice of this evaluation was provided at the [October crab industry public meeting](#) and in the [annual crab newsletter](#).

In addition to the renewal of Oregon's main marine life entanglement risk reduction measures, ODFW plans to propose the following crab regulatory changes to the OFWC: line-marking requirement, surface gear maximum, allowance for switching buoy tags at-sea and allowance for crab retention from all derelict gear recovered after May 1. ODFW will send an industry notice detailing each of these proposals approximately one month prior to the OFWC meeting.

Also, as a reminder all Dungeness crab gear is required to be out of the water by 11:59 PM on August 14. There is no longer a two-week post-season gear clean up period. Vessels can request a one-time retrieval waiver to have another vessel help retrieve their gear out of the water during the last two weeks of the season (August 1-14<sup>th</sup>). Please contact ODFW License Services at 503-947-6101 if you are interested in applying for a waiver.

Additional details on all ODFW efforts to minimize the risk of marine life entanglement in collaboration with commercial crab industry, including a revised Best Fishing Practices Directive, can be found at [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/whale\\_entanglement.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/whale_entanglement.asp).

Thank you for reviewing all of this information and please contact us if you have any questions.

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Oregon Commercial Limited Entry Dungeness Crab  
Late-Season Buoy Tag Order Form



ODFW License Services  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302  
503-947-6101  
Fax: 503-947-6117

\*All fields must be completed

Vessel Doc. or  
Or Marine Board# \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Crab Permit # \_\_\_\_\_

Buoy Brand # \_\_\_\_\_

**\* REQUIRED FIELDS**

Permit Holder Name \*: \_\_\_\_\_

(If Business or Corporation Name, include papers for signature authority)

Address \*: \_\_\_\_\_

City \*: \_\_\_\_\_ State \*: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \*: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \*: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number if Lost Pot Tags are found \*: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tags will be sent to the above address, unless an alternate address is listed below, or you can pick up tags in-person at the Salem ODFW office. Tags will not be shipped to an alternate ODFW office. UPS will not deliver to P.O. Box; you must include a physical address for mailing.**

Alternate UPS Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code, \_\_\_\_\_

Name one alternate person that may pick up replacement buoy tags if the Permit Owner is not available: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: No one other than the Permit holder or named alternate may pick up replacement tags.**

**Please specify the total amount of late-season tags you are requesting. No refunds on purchased tags. Buoy Tags are \$1.15 each.**

500 pot limit permit can order up to 400

300 pot limit permit can order up to 240

200 pot limit permit can order up to 160

Total tags requested \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.15/tag = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due

Payment options: Check or Money Order (**Mail Order Only**)

Visa/Master Card/Discover (**Fax, mail or phone order**)

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date (MM/YY): \_\_\_\_\_, CVC \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF CARD HOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*Signature of Permit Owner (Required) \*\*\*\*

Date