



Quinault Indian Nation

PO Box 189 * Taholah, WA 98587

2022-23 SEASONAL CRAB REGULATION -03

Revision – Supersedes previous Seasonal regulation issued December 17, 2021 and will go into effect on January 27, 2023 at 8:00 AM. Please note Special Management Area Section

TO: Quinault Tribal Members
FROM: Quinault Ocean Fishers Committee
DATE: January 23, 2023
SUBJECT: Quinault Indian Nation **Pacific Ocean commercial** crabbing season

REASON: Modification of 2022-23 Seasonal Ocean Crab regulation issued December 17, 2023.

SEASON: Continues through September 15, 2023 unless closed earlier by regulation.

AREA: The area open for fishing to all tribal members shall be limited to all Pacific Ocean waters between Point Chehalis (46°53.30' N Lat.) and Destruction Island (47°40.10' N. Lat.), and due westward from shore no more than 30 nautical miles at any latitude.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA: A Quinault-only Special Management Area (SMA) is designated per agreement with the State of Washington. This SMA is described by the following coordinates:

Northeast Corner (Raft River): 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°20.70' W. Lon.
Northwest Corner: 47°28.00' N. Lat. 124°34.00' W. Lon.
Southwest Corner: 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°25.50' W. Lon.
Southeast Corner (Copalis River): 47°08.00' N. Lat. 124°11.20' W. Lon.

POT LIMITS: **Effective January 27, 2023 at 8:00 AM and until further notice**, each vessel registered for the 2022-2023 Quinault Nation commercial crab fishery is limited to **450 pots total with a maximum of 450 pots placed within the SMA area described above**. Pots may be deployed anywhere within the Quinault Usual and Accustomed area between Point Chehalis (46°53.30' N Lat.) and Destruction Island (47°40.10' N. Lat.), and due westward from shore no more than 30 nautical miles at any latitude.

REGULATIONS: It is unlawful for any person to take, or possess for commercial purposes female Dungeness crabs. Only male Dungeness crabs measuring 6-1/4 inches or more, caliper measurement, across the back immediately in front of the tips may be retained. Retention and/or sale of softshell crab are prohibited. There is no bag limit or quota. All crab harvested in the fishery shall be sold to the Quinault Tribal Enterprise or authorized agents of the Quinault Indian Nation. The use of long-line gear is permitted. Crab pots must have at least two (2), 4-1/4 inch minimum, inside-diameter escape rings and the lids secured with biodegradable cotton-twine. **Absolutely no crab may be landed after September 15, 2023 or earlier if closed by regulation. All crab must be landed within Quinault's U&A.**

2022-23 Seasonal Ocean Commercial Crab Regulation-03 cont.

OFFLOADING NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: It is a violation to offload any ocean crab unless the following requirements have been met:

1. Vessel skipper is required to contact Taholah Police Department dispatch at **360-276-4423 (or 4424) before crossing east of the Grays Harbor bar** with ocean crab.
2. The skipper will provide the following information when they call: Time of arrival, estimated time of off-load, and location of off-load in Westport.

All calls will be logged by Taholah Police Department for proof of compliance and Fisheries Enforcement Officers will be notified. Failure to follow these requirements will be a violation of this regulation.

REPORTING: All catch including ceremonial and subsistence must be reported on electronic fish receiving tickets. Dungeness crab shall be sold only to Quinault authorized commercial fish buyers. The sale of Dungeness crab harvested for ceremonial and subsistence use is prohibited. All approved Buyers are required to indicate, on the electronic fish receiving tickets, the name of the Authorized Fisher that caught the crab and the management area it was caught in. In the event that an individual other than that Authorized Fisher is selling it on the Authorized Fisher's behalf, the individual selling the crab must also be indicated on the electronic fish receiving ticket. A list of currently approved Authorized Fishers is kept in the QDNR Permits Office.

Due to potential health concerns with biotoxins it is important to report catch areas as accurately as possible on fish landing tickets.

GEAR IDENTIFICATION: All crab pots, whether attended or unattended, must be clearly marked on the buoy with the fisher's tribal identification number preceded by the number 18.

GEAR REGISTRATION: Before participating in the 2022-23 Dungeness crab fishery it is the responsibility of Quinault Fishers to register buoy colors, buoy identification number and amount of crab pots being fished with the Quinault Fish and Game secretary. **Fishing prior to meeting these requirements is illegal and a violation of this regulation.**

AUTHORIZED FISHERMEN: Only individuals who possess a Quinault Indian Nation identification card are authorized to fish in Quinault Ocean fisheries. Nonmember spousal assistance is not authorized in any Quinault Ocean Fishery.

GEAR REMOVAL: All crab fishermen must remove his or her crab fishing gear from the ocean waters described by this regulation when the fishery closes or when he or she has discontinued fishing per Quinault Derelict Gear Regulations.

JUSTIFICATION: The recent test fishery results indicate that crab condition is healthy and harvestable, provided processing guidelines are followed.

Jim Darmiento
Jim Darmiento (Jan 25, 2023 10:34 PST)

Ocean Committee Chairman

David E. Bingaman
David E. Bingaman (Jan 25, 2023 10:03 PST)

QDNR Director

Cleve Jackson

Quinault Fisheries Policy Spokesperson

Persons wishing to comment on this regulation should file comments with the secretary of the Quinault Fish and Game Commission within 10 days of this posting. The Quinault Business Committee will consider whether to enact this regulation as a permanent regulation on or before its next meeting.











2022-23 Permanent Ocean Crab regulation - 03 1-23-23

Final Audit Report

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