



Quinault Indian Nation

POST OFFICE BOX 189 □ TAHOLAH, WASHINGTON 98587 □ TELEPHONE (360) 276 - 8211

2015-16 SEASONAL REGULATION

TO: Quinault Tribal Members
FROM: Quinault Department of Fisheries
DATE: November 17, 2015
SUBJECT: Quinault Indian Nation **Pacific Ocean commercial** crabbing season starting November 19, 2015.

Fishery/Purpose: To establish continuous framework crab harvest regulation for the 2015-16 fishing season for the Quinault Indian Nation.

SEASON: November 19, 2015 through September 15, 2016. It is lawful to set baited crab gear and pull gear starting at 08:00 am Thursday November 19, 2015.

AREA: The area open for fishing to all tribal members shall be limited to all Pacific Ocean waters between Point Chehalis (46°53'18"N.) and Destruction Island (47°40'06" N.), and east of (125°08'30" W).

POT LIMITS: Each Quinault vessel is **limited to 600 total pots** for use in the 2015-16 season. Also, until further notice, a limit of 200 pots will be in effect for the area north of the Copalis River mouth (47°08.00 N. Lat.) and south of the Raft River mouth (47°28.00 N. Lat.) shoreward of a line extending between the southern coordinate (47°.08.00 N. Lat.; 124°31.00 W. Lon.) and northern coordinate (47°28.00 N. Lat.; 124°37.00 W. Lon.).

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, 2016. All Crab Must Be landed within Quinault's U&A.**

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 entering Grays Harbor 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 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. **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.



2015-16 Seasonal Ocean Commercial Crab Regulation cont.

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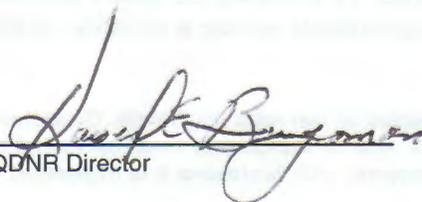
GEAR REGISTRATION: Before participating in the 2015-16 Dungeness crab fishery it is the responsibility of Quinault Fishers to register buoy colors, buoy identification number and amount of crab pots being fished with the Quinault Fish and Game secretary. **Fishing prior to meeting these requirements is illegal and a violation of this regulation.**

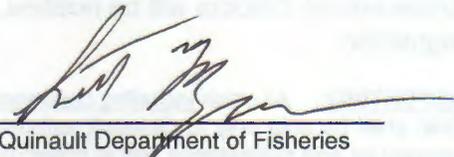
ELECTRONIC MONITORING: All fishermen participating in this fishery must comply with the **2015-16 Ocean Crab Electronic Monitoring Regulation.**

AUTHORIZED FISHERMEN: Only Quinault Indian Nation members who possess a Quinault Indian Nation identification card and authorized spouses or children are allowed to fish.

GEAR REMOVAL: All pots shall be removed when the fishery closes.

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


Joseph Benjamin
QDNR Director


Quinault Department of Fisheries

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.