

Study Guide-Crabbing and Derelict Gear

1. We harvest two crab species in the Salish Sea: Dungeness Crab is primary. Red Rock Crab is secondary.
2. Like other hard-shelled animals crabs go through the process of molting as they grow.
3. A female Dungeness Crab may produce Five Million eggs in her lifetime.
4. A male crab goes through Thirteen molting stages before reaching legal size.
5. After molting, a crab's shell is soft. Soft During those phases Dungeness Crabs may not be retained because they are easily damaged if handled and have poor quality and quantity of meat.
6. Only the male sex Dungeness Crab can be retained. Daily limit is 5.
7. The male crab reaches legal size about two years after first molt. In our area most harvested crabs are about 4 to 5 years old. Maximum age is 8 to 9 years.
8. To determine legal size the crab must be measured across the carapace using a crab gague. In the Puget Sound the minimum legal size is 6 1/4 Inches.
9. Generally speaking, in what part of the Salish Sea has the crab population crashed in the last several years? Most of South Salish Sea from Seattle to Vashon and Olympia.
10. More than 12,000 derelict crab pots are lost every year in Wa's Salish Sea, killing over 177,000 harvestable crabs.
11. WDFW and partners are able to recover about 1,500 derelict pots each year.
12. Name several measures to reduce such crab and crab pot loss: Add weights to crab pots; use weighted line that is 33% longer than high tide depth; use 1/8 in biodegradable string on escape hatches; and be sure the escape hatches work properly.
13. Dungeness Crab tastes: good.