



Skokomish Indian Tribe

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Skokomish Tribe's 2025/2026 Annual Commercial and Subsistence Dungeness and Red Rock Crab Regulation PUB-S#25-16

1. Introduction

The following Regulation is promulgated by the Skokomish Indian Tribe and shall govern the conduct of commercial and subsistence crab fisheries in the usual and accustomed marine fishing areas of the Skokomish Tribe. The term of this Regulation is from June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026.

2. Fishing Areas

Harvest areas for the Skokomish Tribe include Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife marine shellfish management and catch reporting areas 25C south of a line from Olele Point to Foulweather Bluff, 27A, 27B and 27C.

3. Tribal Fisher Registration

All Tribal fishers planning to participate in the 2025/2026 commercial crab fishery must register at the Skokomish Natural Resources Office prior to fishing. At the time of registration, fishers shall report the number of pots and buoys to be used and the potential buyer, along with the area in which they will be fishing.

4. Times of Openings

Specific openings for commercial and subsistence crab fisheries will be announced in separate emergency regulations. Subsistence limits will be indicated in the emergency regulations. Regular subsistence rules will apply and all catch must be reported on subsistence cards. Daily openings will be from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Overnight soaks are permitted. Subsistence fishing will close for 24 hours after every commercial crab opening to allow enforcement the opportunity to check for illegal pots. Specific subsistence closures for soft-crab conditions will be announced in a separate emergency regulation.

5. Gear Limitations

Legal commercial gear shall include crab pots, ring nets, dip nets, and other hand operated instruments that do not penetrate the shell of the crab. Specific limits on the number of pots will be identified in the emergency regulations.

Legal subsistence gear shall include crab pots, ring nets, dip nets, and other hand operated instruments that do not penetrate the shell of the crab. Each fisher may use up to three pieces of crab gear.

All pots shall have buoys attached while they are being used for fishing. Buoys attached to gear can be any color or color combinations except for half red and half white. If any portion of the buoy is red, none of the remaining portion of the buoy may be white. If any portion of the buoy is white, none of the remaining portion of the buoy may be red. All buoys must be constructed of durable material, excluding plastic, metal bottles, and other containers. At least one buoy measuring no smaller than five inches in diameter by 11 inches in length must be attached to each crab pot or ring-net line. The buoy line shall be weighted to keep the buoy line from floating. All buoys shall be conspicuously marked with the fisher's Tribal identification number and must be marked in such a way that the identification number can be read without removing the gear from the water.

All crab pots shall only be fished at locations where the pot is completely covered by water during all stages and conditions of tide.

6. Gear Definitions

A commercial crab pot is an enclosed trap with at least two escape rings or ports located in the upper half of the trap. The inside diameter of the escape ring or port shall be not less than 4 1/4 inches. Additional provisions for escapement from the pot in the event that the pot is lost while fishing shall be one of the following methods:

1. attach a pot lid-hook or tie down straps with a single strand or loop of untreated cotton or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120; or
2. provide an opening in the pot mesh no less than 3 by 5 inches which is laced or sewn closed with untreated cotton twine or other natural fiber not larger than thread size 120. The opening must be located in the top half of the pot and must not be blocked by entry tunnels, bait boxes, or any other structures or materials; or
3. attach the pot lid or one pot side that serves as a pot lid with not more than three single loops of untreated cotton twine or other natural fiber no larger than thread size 120. The pot lid or side must open freely if the twine or fiber is broken.

A ring net is a type of dip net which may be lowered from a vessel by means of a rope.

7. Harvest Limitations

The minimum size for Dungeness crab will be 6 ¼ inches. Size is measured by calipers across the back of the crab immediately in front of the tips. Only legal-sized male crabs may be harvested. It is unlawful for fishers to retain and possess undersized crab, female Dungeness crab and any soft-shelled crabs. All undersized, female and soft-shelled crabs must be returned to the water unharmed. The subsistence limit is 3 crabs per day.

8. Catch Reporting

Commercial harvesters are responsible for filling out a pot pull-log and returning it to the Natural Resources office within 2 days of harvesting (Appendix 1). All commercial catches shall be reported on Treaty Indian fish Receiving Tickets or roadside sales reporting forms as specified in the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance. This includes any catches retained for commercial take-home purposes. All subsistence crab harvest shall be reported on special crab subsistence cards.

All crab sold as road-side sales must be reported to the DNR office within seven days of the date of sale. Failure to report road side sales will result in a \$50.00 fine per offense.

9. Emergency Regulations

The above regulations may be amended at any time by emergency regulations. Prior to harvest, each fisher shall be responsible for checking with the Skokomish Natural Resources Office for emergency regulation changes.

10. Authority

The above regulations are promulgated by the Skokomish Fish Committee and adopted by the Tribal Council under the authority of the Skokomish On-Reservation and Treaty Fishing Ordinance.



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