



Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division
Enforcement Summary February 2023 to
June 2023



****COMMERCIAL CRAB****

A Senior Trooper checked a commercial crab offload in Winchester Bay. In the offload, 128 pounds of undersize crab were located along with the 8477 pounds of legal crab. One deckhand took responsibility for measuring the crab and was issued a **Violation Citation** for the offense. The second deckhand who did some of the measuring was issued a **Warning**. The crab was weighed, recorded on the dock slip and returned to the bay.

Senior Troopers conducted seafood market checks in Washington County. Seven locations were contacted, and several violations were detected most of which related to record keeping. Several markets were found to be **out of compliance with Dungeness Crab Traceability** requirements because the wholesaler had not included the info as required. All individuals were warned and educated on the missing requirements.

A Sergeant was dispatched to investigate a commercial crabbing case. A commercial crab fisherman called to report some of his crab pots had blown into the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve during a recent series of storms. The responding Trooper advised the crabber he could retrieve his gear as long as they returned any crab caught in the Marine Reserve back into the ocean. He was also asked to report the locations of any of his gear he was able to find. They complied and reported finding and dumping four of his pots within the reserve. The crabber was **warned for Commercial Fishing Prohibited Area- Within a Marine Reserve**.

A Trooper contacted a non-resident commercial crab deckhand at the Port of Brookings. The investigation revealed the subject did not purchase a 2023 individual commercial license and the fishing vessel did not have a crew member license for the subject. The subject was issued a **Citation for No Individual Commercial License**.

**OREGON STATE POLICE – FISH & WILDLIFE
COMMERCIAL CRAB ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY**

A Trooper was checking Commercial Dungeness Crab offloads at the Port of Brookings. After discovering a number of undersized crab during an offload, the Trooper and patrol Troopers inspected the entire offload (approx. 14,700 lbs.). The large fishing vessel was found to be in possession of 347 pounds of undersized crab. Additionally, two female crab were also located. The same boat captain and crew had been issued citations in the past for possessing undersized crab. Two days later, the vessel was inspected during a smaller offload (approx. 6000 lbs.) and again was found have 15 lbs of undersized crab. Once the offload was complete. The Trooper gained consent to search the boat. Inside the fish hold, the Trooper located 4 additional undersized crab concealed in the corner of the fish hold. Furthermore, the crew and captain concealed a small basket of crab inside the bathroom of the vessel. When questioned regarding this matter, they told the Trooper they thought the crab were undersized during the offload, so they wanted to hide them from the Trooper. They told the Trooper they were going to dump the crab overboard after the offload. Only one crab out of the basket was found to be undersized. The captain of the vessel was criminally cited and released for **Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and for **Fail to Sell Commercial Fish/Shellfish to a Wholesale Fish Dealer**. **One of the deckhands was cited and released for the same.**

In February, Troopers were notified by ODFW of undersized Dungeness crab at a seafood plant in Newport. Troopers responded, and they measured all of the crab from the fishing vessel. The Troopers discovered the commercial fisherman had retained over 900 lbs of undersized crab. Two deckhands and the captain were cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Crab**.

Troopers conducted training combined with a commercial crab patrol out of Newport. The Troopers inspected multiple strings of gear and found one string with 6 pots out of compliance. The pots were illegally fishing without buoy tags and with buoy tags from previous years. The fisherman was cited for **No Buoy Tags** and the pots were seized.

Troopers, assisted by ODFW Commercial Crab staff, conducted a Guardian patrol out of Newport to focus on compliance in the late commercial crab season. Numerous strings of gear were located. The team located 5 strings of gear from 5 different boats that did not have the required summer tags affixed to the buoys. The captains of the vessels were contacted and cited for **No Buoy Tags – Late Season**.

Troopers contacted the captain of a commercial crab vessel that does not have the appropriate tags to participate in the summer commercial crab fishery. The captain had pulled all of his crab pots and kept the crab that were in them on April 30th (the last day of the crab season), and then attempted to land the crab on May 1st. The captain admitted that he should have dumped the crab, and was cited for **Land Commercial Dungeness Crab After Deadline Without Secondary Buoy Tags**. The crab landing was seized.

A Trooper performed an ocean boat patrol in Curry County. Commercial Dungeness crab gear was discovered that did not have late season buoy tags. The skipper was issued a citation for **No Buoy Tag**. One of the pots was seized.

Troopers conducted an offshore boat patrol near Cannon Beach. A string of 10 Dungeness crab pots were found without summer Dungeness crab pot tags after the May 1st deadline within the 30-fathom line. The captain was issued a violation citation for **Commercial Crabbing Closed Season**.

Off of the Columbia River, Troopers documented over 15 commercial Dungeness crab pots fishing outside of 40 fathoms which is closed starting May 1. The buoys had the late season tags attached but not the required main season tags. The locations were given to another Trooper for investigation.

Troopers conducted a boat patrol of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve after receiving reports of crab pots inside of the reserve. Troopers found 3 pots from 3 different commercial fishing boats. It appeared the pots had drifted into the reserve due to their close proximity to the northern boundary line of the reserve. All three commercial fishing boats were notified.

A limited fish seller was contacted selling crab off their boat. They were not weighing the crab as they were being sold. The seller was just charging a flat rate per crab and estimating that all the individual crab averaged a certain weight. The limited fish seller was warned and instructed to make sure each and every crab was weighted for each sale.



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****Commercial Crab****

**Totals for Commercial Crab worked by OSP F&W Troopers this season from
Feb – June 2023**

HOURS - 572.75
CONTACTS - 483
NOT IN COMPLIANCE – 74
CITATIONS – 31
WARNINGS - 51