

Final Action on Groundfish Inseason Adjustment

The tribal Dungeness crab fishery occurs from about 12 fm out to 50 fm. These are areas of high crab density in the tribes' U&As. Therefore, the tribes have serious concerns about the Dungeness crab bycatch created by the recent management measures which push the trawl fleet inside 50 fm, particularly in the tribal U&As. The tribes feel there is a need for more information on the impacts of the trawl fishery on Dungeness crab, during molting, as it could potentially have serious implications for the crab fishery in the future. These management measures seem like an ill-advised tradeoff considering the economic value of Dungeness crab to the northwest Washington coast. The tribes would like the Council to explore restricting the fishery to outside of 50 fm, especially in the area between Point Chehalis and Sandpoint/Norwegian Memorial until the impacts can be further analyzed and accounted for. The tribes will continue dialogue with WDFW about this issue.