

Patrols: An estimated 425 vessels will crab off of Oregon

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Klepp and Dielman took turns sitting beside her as the Hercules made its way to Hoquiam, Washington, before turning back, crossing the mouth of the Columbia River and traveling as far south as Tillamook County.

Klepp said there were rumors of crabbers dropping gear as early as midnight Friday. If someone has buoys out before 8 a.m., he said, he can contact lieutenants on the ground and even confiscate people's gear with the state police's boat, the Guardian.

"We're always looking for a fair start, making sure everybody's following the rules," Dielman said.

The Dungeness crab fishery is one of the most valuable in the region, with more than \$50 million made off the Oregon Coast in 2014, and more than \$60 million off of Washington. An average of 10 million pounds of Dungeness crab is caught off of Oregon each year, with about 350 Oregon-based vessels partaking in the fishery, according to the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission.

An estimated 225 vessels will crab off of Washington,



Aviation Technician Shannon Fieste, right, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officer Todd Dielman inspect crabbing boats during a flyover on a C-130 Hercules Friday. You can see more photos of the patrols online at www.dailystorian.com

another 425 off of Oregon and 75 in both states. Crabbing remains open through the summer, but 50 percent of the annual catch could be landed in the first two weeks of the season, with 80 to 90 percent harvested during the first two to three months, based on historical trends.

Later start

The fishery, which traditionally starts Dec. 1, had been delayed by a month because of toxic algal blooms off the coast causing dangerous levels of the neurotoxin domoic acid in marine life. Dielman said the crabs look healthy and full. Recent tests have shown domoic acid

levels below U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards, while crab north of Cascade Head have filled out with at least 23 percent meat content.

Along with boats dropping pots early, Dielman and Klepp are looking for fishermen who carry too many. Boats can take out another boat barging their

gear, but only up to 250 extra pots. Dielman said the departments keep a list of known offenders.

"It's definitely greed," Dielman said about fishermen cutting corners. "There's a lot of money. If we catch them one out of every five times, it's worth it for them."

Deadlier catch

Along with the wildlife officers and Coast Guard crew Friday was a videographer from the Discovery Channel, filming for the inaugural season of "Deadliest Catch: Dungeness Cove," a spinoff of the long-running series that will focus on Newport crabbing families. The series is set to premier in the fall.

The "Deadliest Catch" series started in 2005, following fishermen in and around the Bering Sea. In a bit of irony, Alaska has never had the deadliest fishery during the run of the show.

A report by the National Institute on Occupational Safety and Health in 2009 found that East Coast groundfishing was the deadliest, followed by Atlantic scallops.

In third place was Dungeness crabbing off of Oregon

and Washington. The fishery had 25 deaths among a workforce of 8,092 between 2000 and 2009, a rate of 310 deaths per 100,000 full-time-equivalent workers. The Bearing Sea crab fleet suffered 12 deaths among a workforce of 4,658 fishermen, or 260 per 100,000 full-time-equivalents.

Discovery Channel's crew didn't have much action to cover, as neither Dielman nor Klepp identified any suspicious boats Friday. The Coast Guard's Station Cape Disappointment pulled in two disabled vessels over the weekend.

Dielman, Klepp and other officers fanned out to various marinas on the north and south sides of the Columbia River over the weekend, along with Coast Guard safety personnel, finishing last-minute inspections. In October, vessel exams became required for commercial vessels operating more than 3 nautical miles offshore.

After a weak season last year and a monthlong delay, Dielman said he expects a high demand and prices for Dungeness crab, which starts coming into processors and seafood markets this morning.

Hayes: He has recently moved into painting imitations of 'glitch art'

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Practitioners have included patients from psychiatric institutions — artists whose work looks untrained, yes, but also utterly unconventional.

"It's kind of just pure expression," said Hayes, a largely self-taught painter. "I feel like my art is a little unschooled ... I think it's well-informed, but it has this unschooled aspect to it."

On Jan. 9, Hayes and his wife, Sally Lackaff, will premiere a joint exhibition at Astoria's Imogen Gallery. Titled "Clatsop County Waters," the show focuses on the county's bodies of water, rendered in Hayes' acrylic work and Lack-

aff's multimedia assemblages of watercolor paintings and art composed of glass, wood and fiber work.

Their pieces depict the play of lightness and darkness on water — for example, the colors created when the sunset meets the Columbia River, a vision that in real life is "like a light show," he said.

Highbrow and lowbrow

Originally from Detroit, Hayes took up abstract drawing at around 3 years old, learned to illustrate real things at 7 and began copying expressionists like Max Beckmann, a German artist, at 15. Expressionism — a modernist movement that elevates emo-

tional intensity over literal representation — became his comfort zone.

"That's where I learned painting," he said.

Some years after attending the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, Hayes received a \$4,000 grant in 1986 to produce between 40 and 50 paintings for an exhibition in Lansing. Over the decades, he has had about 10 solo shows and been part of about 50 group shows, some as far away as Paris and Lausanne, Switzerland.

Hayes is pretty egalitarian in his sources of inspiration: Nature fills him with awe, sure, but so does pop art. From the mighty Columbia to un-

derground comic books, high-brow to lowbrow, all is fair game.

His subjects have evolved drastically, encompassing portraits and human figures, abstract art and radical left-wing protest art. Lately, he has moved into painting imitations of "glitch art," which transforms distortions in digital and analogue data into things of beauty.

Meanwhile, he's recorded around 10 albums of electronic music. "It's all pretty experimental," he said. "The whole process is the goal."

And there's a lot of creative overlap between his music and his visual art.

"At some point I convinced

myself that art and music aren't exclusive; they're very cross-informative," he said.

Think of compositions by Mahler or Shostakovich, how rapturous and evocative they are, and how they inspire imagery, "Fantasia"-style, that belongs on canvas.

"I really kind of tried to delve into that. And now, these days, I think everybody does it," he said.

Balance

At Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare — where Hayes has served the community since 2000 — he recently switched from counseling mental health clients to individuals recovering from drug

and alcohol dependency.

Many of his clients are otherwise upstanding citizens just trying to turn their lives around, some seeking treatment on their own. But there are the tougher cases, the people with post-traumatic stress disorder, the people on parole or probation, the sex offenders.

Having a full-time office job — with reports to write and rules and routines to follow — has given his life some balance, he said.

"I think it's been good for me. I think I'm a little too loosey-goosey in the way I approach stuff," he said. "It helps to have to think in a very organized way sometimes."

— Erick Bengel

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