



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Personnel at Bell Buoy Crab Co. offload crab at the Port of Chinook.

From water to plate

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A crab boat arrives at the Port of Chinook.



Dungeness crab are put into a container after being offloaded from a fishing vessel.

Dungeness crabs are showing up in local markets and on the menus of restaurants throughout the region. And while the boats in the water and the crab swimming in tanks are the most visible evidence of the industry, much of the activity also takes place at the docks. At the Port of Chinook, the work resembles a team sporting event between workers, machines and crab. The crab are loaded into metal bins, raised with a crane, dumped into large plastic bins on the dock, picked up by forklift and weighed, then shipped off to a processing facility. The hardest part for most of us is trying not to make a mess while cracking the shell. But while you're doing that, it's worth thinking about what it takes to catch the crab, to get it to land and to get it from the boat to your plate.



Dockworkers with Bell Buoy Crab Co. use a crane to load crab into bins at the Port of Chinook.



Dungeness crab are inspected at the dock after a fishing vessel arrived with the day's catch.



Dungeness crab are sorted before being transported to a processing facility.



A bin of freshly caught crab is moved to a processing facility at the Port of Chinook.