

Crabbing for Dungeness may be delayed by domoic acid

SALEM — It's that time of year: Oregon Dungeness crab fishermen are stacking their pots near harbors and fixing their boats, preparing for a season that usually starts in December.

But this year, the catch phrase is "domoic acid," a naturally occurring neurotoxin that has plagued animals in several areas of the West Coast, thanks to an unusually large algae bloom in the ocean.

Domoic acid can concentrate in some fish and shellfish, causing sickness in the animals that eat them.

So what about us, the consumers?

Dungeness crab currently sold in supermarkets and restaurants is safe. All that delicious Dungeness Oregonians love is OK because it is from stock that was previously frozen or sourced from areas that have tested clean for

domoic acid.

"Oregon's Dungeness crab industry strives to bring consumers the highest quality product possible," says Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Executive Director Hugh Link. "We want everyone to enjoy the Dungeness crab eating experience and you can be assured that product from Oregon that reaches the shelves has gone through rigorous quality control."

The start of Oregon's commercial crab season may be delayed due to a number of factors. For example, in addition to testing for domoic acid, Oregon officials and the industry test crab for quality to ensure the crab are full of meat.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, fishermen, processors, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Agriculture want to ensure the consumer

gets only the best crab on the market.

"Our processors are committed to bringing you safe and healthy seafood," says West Coast Seafood Processors Association Senior Policy

Commercial crabbers will have a delayed start to the season, with hopes of arriving with fresh crab Dec. 1.

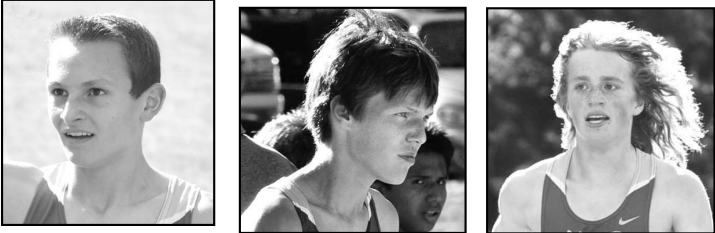
Adviser Rod Moore. "Consumers can rest assured the crab they buy is safe to eat."

Oregon officials are in the midst of testing crab for domoic acid. These tests will determine whether fishermen will be returning to the docks with fish holds full of crab on Dec. 1.

But for now, enjoy that Dungeness you just bought. It's safe. It's sustainable. It's delicious.

"Spread those newspapers, melt the butter, pour the wine and prepare to crack our crab," Link says. "It's an Oregon tradition."

Three Vikings receive state, district honors



From left: Murray Bingham, Isaac Griffes and Jack Pickell

Three members of the Viking boys cross country team received league and state honors at the end of the season.

Among them were Murray Bingham, who was named First Team All-League in the Far West. Bingham also made the Second Team All-State

roster with his 10th place finish at the state meet, where the Viking boys placed ninth overall.

Isaac Griffes also made the First Team All-League roster in the Far West, along with teammate Jack Pickell, who was named Second Team All-League in the Far West.

Mushrooms highlighted at Cape Perpetua today

YACHATS — Summer might have ended, but discovery never ends on the Oregon Coast. Autumn rains have ushered in a bounty of mushrooms. Learn about them and more during the season's first installment of the Winter Discovery Series at 2 p.m. today, Nov. 14, at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, 2400 Highway 101, three miles south of Yachats.

Mushroom forager and photographer Anna Moore will

discuss local mushroom species and share knowledge gained from 30 years of foraging.

All presentations and guided walks are free, but a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Pass or \$5 day-use fee is required within to the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area.

For more information, contact the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center at 541-547-3289.



PHOTOS BY NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



Viks from 1C

"A real gentleman with a great work ethic," says Wartnik. "We're excited to have him wrestling in the middle-weight range for us."

Senior 160-pounder Andrew

Tupua returns to the line-up after a one-year absence from the mats.

"Andrew brings a lot to the team in terms of talent, but he also is a charismatic leader," Wartnik says. "He can make a huge difference for us in terms of team chemistry."

Clockwise from top: Siuslaw head coach Neil Wartnik talks to his team in preparation for next week; junior returner Kainan Lane listens to instructions; a pair of wrestlers practice moves on the mat after fitness training.

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