

South coast opens to commercial Dungeness crabbing

Oregon Dungeness crab fishermen and seafood processor representatives participating in state-supervised crab price negotiations have agreed on an opening price of \$3 per pound for the 2017 Dungeness crab season partial opening this week, set for south of Cape Blanco, near Port Orford on the Oregon coast.

The agreement is expected to be approved by Oregon Department of Agriculture Acting Director Lisa Hanson.

The ODA-supervised negotiations, which involved representatives from five seafood processors and four marketing associations from Brookings to Astoria, came to a successful conclusion this week at a meeting in Newport.

The parties agreed to continue season opening price negotiations for the rest of the coast when state managers set a beginning date for crab fishing north of Cape Blanco.

Pre-season "meat fill" tests

used by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that quality and condition standards for the crab are met indicate that the quality of the crab this year will be excellent.

In addition, testing of crab samples conducted by ODA show that detections of the marine toxin domoic acid are below the level of concern in the area south of Cape Blanco.

Dungeness crab harvested from the Oregon coast and sold

in retail markets and restaurants are safe and wholesome for consumers.

Crabbers began placing their pots in the open area Thursday, in preparation for tomorrow's Dec. 18 opening.

Areas north of Cape Blanco are undergoing further testing out of an abundance of caution before an opening date will be announced.

Dungeness crab is the most valuable commercial fishery on the Oregon coast. Last season's

harvest produced landings of 14.2 million pounds and an "ex-vessel" value of \$51 million dollars.

This year's harvest of Oregon Dungeness crab is expected to be good, which will once again allow consumers locally and nationwide to enjoy the official "State Crustacean" of Oregon.

For more information, contact Hugh Link, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, at 541-267-5810.

YAHATS COASTAL GEM WALKERS ANNOUNCE JANUARY JAUNT

Celebrate the New Year with the Yachats Coastal Gem Walkers, which is expecting good walking weather for its January stroll.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the group will be walking the new Toledo Ridge and River YRE.

This 10K walk includes some hilly areas that would be difficult for wheelchairs or strollers.

Since the walk is divided into three separate loops, it is easy to modify the distance for those who want a shorter walk.

Those wishing to carpool to Toledo should meet at the Commons in Yachats. The carpool will depart at 9 a.m., so arrive a few minutes early.

Walkers can also meet at JC's Thriftway in Toledo at 10 a.m. to register for the walk.

The walk will begin at 10:15 a.m. As always, leashed pets are welcome on walks, but bring water and clean up materials for pets. A sturdy 6-foot leash (non-retractable) is required.

On Wednesday, Jan. 4, the Gems will hold their monthly

meeting at the home of the club president in Yachats.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. and generally lasts about an hour.

For more information or directions, call Jean White in Florence at 541-997-8577.

Oregon Parks to sponsor annual free 'First-Day Hikes' New year's Day

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will join America's State Parks in sponsoring First

Day Hikes in 21 Oregon State Parks on New Year's Day.

Park rangers or volunteers will lead most of the hikes.

Day-use parking fees are waived for all visitors at participating parks Jan. 1 only.

"This is us helping people have a little fun and remember your parks are there for you any time of year," said Lisa Sumption, OPRD director. "Fun, healthy, memorable ... bundle up and enjoy your first

walk of the year with a state park ranger."

Local participating parks and meeting areas include:

- Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park — 10 a.m. at Siuslaw North Jetty last parking lot near the Coast Guard tower.
- Oswald West State Park —

9 a.m. at the main park lot, Short Sands Beach Trailhead.

• Umpqua Lighthouse State Park — 10 a.m. at the day-use parking area near the Lake Marie trail sign.

Visit the Oregon State Parks website for directions to each park at www.oregonstateparks.org.

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Lady Viks from 1B

relatively effective in keeping Tatum out of her normal double-digit scoring, it also had a secondary effect that played to Siuslaw's favor as senior Brittany Long led the Lady Viks in scoring for the second consecutive game.

"She really stepped up and I think it caught Cottage Grove off

guard," said Clint Tatum. "No one knows what she can do, and that's been a real advantage. But I don't expect that secret to last very long."

Long had 11 points for Siuslaw and went 3-for-6 from the foul line.

Tatum, meanwhile, had 8 points and 6 rebounds, along with 8 points from sophomore Alyssa Richards, who also had 7 boards against the Lions.

After taking a small lead in the top of the fourth quarter, the Vikings fell behind down the stretch as the Lions extended their lead to 6 points from the freethrow line — and nabbed the win, 45-39.

"We've spent our preseason playing tough teams, and we haven't been blow out," said Clint Tatum. "I feel confident that the experience is going to prepare us well for league play next month."

Other scoring for Siuslaw came from Claire Waggoner, who had 5 points and 4 rebounds; Annabell Tupua with 3 points and 4 rebounds; and 2 points each from Abby Watkins and Nikki Launius.

Last night's scheduled game at home against Cascade was cancelled due to weather.

Monday, the Lady Viks will play at Sweet Home, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

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