

Valuable Dungeness crab fishery finally under way

Oregon's most valuable commercial fishery -- Dungeness crab -- got under way this week.

This year's opening was delayed from its target start of Dec. 1 because the crab on some parts of the Pacific were too spindly.

The goal is 23 to 25 percent meat, or 9 to 10 ounces of crab meat for every crustacean weighing 2 1/2 pounds.

Dungeness crab have been harvested commercially along the Pacific Coast since the late 1800s. Current regulations allow only male crabs larger than 6 1/4 inches across the back of the shell to be taken.

This protects the female and undersized males, which constitute the breeding population and produce the next generation of crab to be harvested, ensuring the sustainability of



Tim Novotny/Courtesy ODFW

A crabbing boat prepares to head out from Charleston Port in Coos Bay on Monday.

the overall stock and industry. The regulatory approach is working, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Last season's average price set a record of \$62.7 million, with landings totaling 20 million pounds, 22 percent above the 10-year average.

Vessels returning to Newport had the most pounds of crab landed last year, followed by Astoria and Coos Bay. A little over 300 fishing boats bring

crab into Oregon each season. The industry is an important economic driver in Oregon's coastal towns.

Since 2014, the state has run a derelict gear-removal program collecting abandoned crab pots and other equipment.

"We're looking forward to many more years of a successful commercial crab industry and sustainable resource in Oregon," said Troy Buell, of ODFW's state fishery program.

State and county voters turn out in favor of Measure 101

The Columbia Press

Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Measure 101, which keeps Oregon's Medicaid program fully funded.

Clatsop County's voters approved the measure by 65 percent.

"On behalf of our patients and the communities we serve, Oregon's hospitals are deeply gratified by the passage of Measure 101," said Andy Davidson, president of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems.

"(The) vote is critical affirmation of our collective belief that Oregon is better off with a robust Medicaid program that tends to the needs of patients before, during and after an illness or the birth of a child. ... We are proud to have been an integral partner in fighting for these patients and their families."

Hospitals have been long-

time advocates for the Oregon Health Plan, working with the Legislature to develop funding solutions to ensure coverage for as many Oregonians as possible.

Those opposed contend it's a fairness issue.

They say Gov. Brown and Oregon's elected leaders chose to cover a shortfall in Medicaid funding by imposing a tax on the premiums that only some (small businesses, school districts, nonprofit groups and others) pay for health care, while other groups -- seniors, veterans and people working for self-insured companies -- do not share the burden.

Measure 101 was the only issue on Tuesday's special election ballot. It will raise \$210 million to \$320 million in taxes by 2019.

Had the measure failed, the Legislature would have had to find new funding to cover the shortfall.

Public Safety Calls

Continued from Page 2

10:23 a.m. Jan. 18, 600 block Northwest 13 Street.

•Male with possible stroke, 12:31 p.m. Jan. 19, 33200 block Bi Water Lane.

•Male having chest pains, 5:20 p.m. Jan. 19, 1600 block Northwest Warrenton Drive.

•Male having difficulty breathing, 7:02 p.m. Jan. 18, 1600 block Northwest Warrenton Drive.

•Female with chest pain, 1:21 a.m. Jan. 20, 500 block Southwest First Street.

•Female feeling sick, 6:54 p.m. Jan. 20, 1100 block Northwest Warrenton Drive.

•Female having difficulty breathing, 8:01 p.m. Jan. 20, 100 block Southwest Cedar Avenue.

•Male with difficulty breathing, 9:24 p.m. Jan. 20, 100 block Southeast 14 Place.

•Female in and out of consciousness, 12:13 a.m. Jan. 21, 90900 block South Highway 101.

•Catatonic female, 2:59 p.m. Jan. 21, 33200 block Sunset Beach Lane.

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