



Dungeness crabs in a holding tank waiting for testing.

Courtesy ODFW

## Fisheries in holding pattern

*The Columbia Press*

The commercial Dungeness crab season remains closed, razor clamming is now closed for commercial and recreational harvesting, and all salmon fishing is closed between the Necanicum River in Seaside and the Nestucca River near Pacific City.

### CRABS

The entire coast is affected by the crab closure, Oregon's most lucrative fishery.

"Based on test results and consultations with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Washington and California departments of fish and wildlife, we are continuing the delay ... until at least Dec. 31," wrote Kelly Corbett, commercial crab project leader, and Troy Buell, state fishery manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in a joint statement.

The second round of tests for quality and size were unsatisfactory, although results for domoic acid, a marine biotoxin, were within acceptable range.

Results of the latest round of testing are expected in the next week.

### CLAMS AND MUSSELS

The state has closed the entire coast to commercial and recreational clamming due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

Mussel harvesting is open

along the coast from the Columbia River to Bandon, but closed south of there because of elevated levels of paralytic shellfish toxin.

Bay clams and crab are open for recreational harvesters along the entire Oregon coast.

### SALMON

Fishery managers have closed the entire North Coast south of the Columbia River to salmon angling after a recent die-off of fall Chinook in the Wilson River near Tillamook, plus excessive pre-spawn mortality of fall Chinook in nearby rivers.

The die-off is being attributed to the spread of cryptobia, a naturally occurring parasite that affects certain fish species and poses no risk to humans.

The closure runs through Dec. 31 from Seaside to Pacific City. Steelhead fishing is not affected and remains open.

The closure is necessary to allow the remaining fall Chinook adults to reach spawning grounds, said Robert Bradley, district fish biologist for ODFW's North Coast Watershed District.

"The observed pre-spawn mortality is on top of a reduced run of fall Chinook this year," he said. "We need to protect the remaining spawners to help provide for future runs."

## Finally, a starring role in the Lucia Celebration!

*The Columbia Press*

A Swedish fraternal organization had trouble this year filling some of the roles in its annual Lucia Celebration.

So folks who never got the chance to play the parts when they were young stood in.

And it made the 2019 Lucia Celebration extra special, said Terry Arnall, historian for Astor Lodge 215 of the Vasa Order of America.

Bob Swenson, 91, said he'd "always wanted to be a Star Boy."

Other over 80 members with starring roles were Lodge Secretary Violet Hagnas and Dolores Nielson.

The celebration, held this year on Dec. 15, included a potluck featuring Swedish foods and ham. Afterward, the adults sang Christmas carols while the children dressed for the pageant. Girls wore traditional white robes, belts made of tinsel and crowns and carried candles. Boys wore white capes, tall white hats and carried wands with silver stars on top.

## 7 appointed to city committees

Seven Warrenton residents were appointed or reappointed to various committees by the City Commission this month.

They are Penny Smith, Warrenton Community Center Board; Bert Little, Warrenton Parks Advisory Board; Kelsey Balensifer and Natalie Duggan, Warrenton Community Library Board; Paul Mitchell and Lylla Gaebel, Planning Commission; and Dan Jackson, Budget Committee.

The committees serve in an advisory capacity. The Planning Commission reviews land applications, holds public hearings and recommends development policies and revisions.



Courtesy Terry Arnall

The 2019 Lucia court includes, L-R, Landon Major, 5, Bob Swenson, Dolores Nielson, Violet Hagnas, Kaisa Liljenwall and Liam Major, 8.

Kaisa Liljenwall was the Lucia bride. Other star boys were Landon and Liam Major.

The shortage of young people was partly due to the many community activities held that day. Even the Lucia bride had to rush over after

playing in the North Coast Symphonic Band's concert that afternoon.

"I have children and grandchildren who have been in the pageant," Arnall said. "I love the whole scene. I'm glad the lights are dim because I usually get teary."

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