

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE SECTION 4.6 CRAB REGULATION FOR REGION 5

The following regulation is promulgated by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and shall govern the conduct of off-reservation commercial and subsistence

Dungeness crab fisheries by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe in Region 5, Hood Canal. The term of this regulation is from June 15, 2026 through February 28, 2027, unless superseded, and is intended to regulate the Dungeness crab harvest by the Lower Elwha Tribe in Region 5 under provisions of Paragraph 4.6 of United States V. Washington, 898 F. supp. 1453 (W.D. wash.1995), as amended by the Stipulation and Order Amending Shellfish Implementation Plan, dated April 8, 2002, (hereafter "implementation Order"). In the event the Region 5 Crab Harvest Management Plan is completed before the end of this regulation term, this regulation will be superseded by a new regulation conforming to the provisions of the Region 5 Crab Harvest Management Plan.

FILING ORGANIZATION: LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

REGULATION NUMBER: #S26-034

DATE ADOPTED: JUNE 12TH, 2026

REGULATION #S26-036, SECTIONS 5 AND 7a.

SUPERCEDED/MODIFIED: NONE

REGULATION SUPERCEDED: NONE

CATCH AREAS: REGION 5: CATCH REPORTING AREAS 25C, 27A, AND THAT PART OF AREA 27B NORTH OF AYOCK PT.

FISHERY TYPE: COMMERCIAL

SPECIES: DUNGENESS CRAB (*Metacarcinus magister*) AND RED ROCK CRAB (*Cancer productus*)

ON/OFF RESERVATION: OFF

EFFECTIVE DATES: JUNE 15TH, 2026 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2027

DAYS/HOURS:

1. FOR THE LOWER ELWHA TRIBE: OPEN ON OR AFTER JUNE 15TH, 2026.

ACTUAL DAYS AND HOURS WILL BE SET IN A SUBSEQUENT AND SUPERSEDING REGULATION

2. POTS MAY ONLY BE CHECKED FROM 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE TO 30 MINUTES AFTER SUNSET EACH DAY.

LEGAL GEAR:

1. AS PER REGULATION #S26-022, SECTION 7 AND SECTION 8.

2. A BUOY MAY BE ANY COLOR EXCEPT FOR A COMBINATION OR RED AND WHITE. IF ANY PORTION OF A BUOY IS RED, NO REMAINING PORTION MAY BE WHITE. IF ANY PORTION OF A BUOY IS WHITE, NO REMAINING PORTION MAY BE RED.

3. LONG LINE FISHING IS NOT PERMITTED: EACH POT BEING FISHED MUST HAVE A SURFACE BUOY ATTACHED.

GEAR LIMITS:

THE POT LIMIT IS 35 POTS PER VESSEL AND PER FISHER IN ALL AREAS COMBINED.

HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:

1. THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR HARVEST IS 6 1/4 INCHES FOR DUNGENESS CRAB AND 5 INCHES FOR RED ROCK CRAB. MINIMUM SIZE IS MEASURED AS CALIPER LENGTH ACROSS THE BACK OF THE CRAB, IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE TIPS.

2. ONLY MALE CRAB MAY BE TAKEN.

3. RECENTLY MOLTED, SOFT-SHELLED CRAB MAY NOT BE TAKEN. ALL CRAB TAKEN MUST BE CHECKED FOR SHELL HARDNESS.

4. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR FISHERS TO RETAIN AND POSSESS ANY FEMALE, UNDERSIZED AND SOFT-SHELLED CRABS. ALL FEMALE, UNDERSIZED AND SOFT-SHELLED DUNGENESS CRABS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER UNHARMED.

REGISTRATION:

ALL TRIBAL FISHERS PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGION 5 CRAB FISHERY MUST REGISTER AT THE TRIBAL FISHERIES OFFICE PRIOR TO FISHING. AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION, FISHERS SHALL REPORT THE NUMBER OF POTS TO BE USED.

CATCH REPORTING:

ALL COMMERCIAL CATCHES SHALL BE REPORTED ON TREATY INDIAN FISH RECEIVING TICKETS. THE WEIGHT OF ALL CRAB RECEIVED AND NOT PURCHASED FOR ANY REASON SHALL BE RECORDED AS TAKE HOME OR SPECIES CODE 20-561 ON TREATY INDIAN FISH RECEIVING

TICKETS. ALL SUBSISTENCE CRAB HARVEST SHALL BE REPORTED ON SHELLFISH SUBSISTENCE CARDS. CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TRIBAL FISHERIES OFFICE.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

1. AS PER REGULATION #S26-022. THE USE OF ANY CLAM SPECIES DUG FROM BEACHES OPENED FOR SUBSISTENCE HARVEST WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROHIBITED.

2. IT IS UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE FROM THE WATER OR TAMPER WITH ANOTHER FISHER'S CRAB GEAR. ANY CRAB GEAR FOUND WITHOUT LEGIBLE IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE TRIBAL FISHERIES OFFICE.

LOST GEAR REPORTING:

1. ALL FISHERS MUST REPORT LOST GEAR TO ENFORCEMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FISHERY.

2. LOWER ELWHA FISHERS MUST FILL OUT A LOST POT FORM AND SUBMIT IT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE CLOSE OF THE FISHERY.

JUSTIFICATION:

THIS REGULATION PROVIDES NOTICE OF THE INTENT TO OPEN REGION 5 DURING THE 2026-2027 SEASON.

(LOWER ELWHA FISHERIES 760 STRATTON ROAD
PORT ANGELES, WA 98363)