

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Marine Region
Newport, Oregon

CRUISE REPORT 79-CR-1

DUNGENESS CRAB INVESTIGATIONS

Vessel: M/V *Sea Pride*

Dates: November 3-5, 1979

Location: One mile south of south jetty, Columbia River.

- Purpose:
1. To determine condition of legal size male Dungeness crab.
 2. To obtain data on sublegal and female crab location and number.

Procedure: Clusters of 5 pots were set at 10 fathom intervals from 10 to 50 fathoms in an area fished during the first week of the crab season. Escape ports were screened and gear was to fish for 24 hours. All crabs caught were to be measured and counted and condition determined by the pinch method on all legal males.

Results: Rough seas prevented pulling the gear in 24 hours, rather the gear fished 48-96 hours. Of the 622 crabs caught 568 were legal males. Only 5.6% were Grade II crabs with no Grade III crabs. Mean length of legal males was 178 mm. Crabs were most abundant at 30-50 fathoms. Sublegals and females were most abundant at 10 fathoms. One pot was lost at 20 fathoms.

Personnel: Leo Bushnel, Vessel Captain
Dave Douglas, Experimental Biologist Aide

	DEPTH - (Fathoms)					Total
	10	20	30	40	50	
No. Pots Sampled	5	4	5	5	5	24
No. Crabs Caught	88	105	145	144	140	622
No. Legal Males	50	96	139	139	138	568
No. Sublegal Males	27	6	4	4	2	43
No. Females	5	3	2	1	0	11
% Berried Females	0	0	50.0	0	0	9.1
% Sublegals and Females	36.4	8.6	4.1	3.5	1.4	8.7
<u>Softshell Sample</u>						
No. Legal Males	4	7	7	4	10	32
% Legal Males	7.1	7.3	5.0	2.9	7.2	5.6
No. Sublegal Males	7	2	0	4	2	11
% Sublegal Males	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. Females	1	0	0	0	0	1
% Females	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Mean Lengths (mm)</u>						
Legal Males	175.4	176.7	177.7	179.0	179.9	178.2
Sublegal Males	152.0	158.0	-	155.3	155.0	154.8
Females	150.0	-	-	-	-	150.0
Legal Softshell	180.0	176.9	176.9	183.5	176.6	178.0
No. Pots Pulled	5	4	5	5	5	24
No. Pounds Landed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mean Catch Per Pot	11.2	24.0	27.8	27.8	27.6	23.7
Soak Time - hours	48	48	72	96	96	48-96