

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Marine Region  
Newport, Oregon

CRUISE Report 79-CR-2

DUNGENESS CRAB INVESTIGATIONS

Vessel: M/V *Sea Ray*

Date: November 9, 1979

Location: Brookings off Thomas Creek

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: Sampling was done according to schedule except that 5 pots were set at 15 rather than 10 fathoms. Of 292 crabs caught 247 were legal males of which 10.5% were Grade II. No Grade III crabs were caught. Mean length of legal males was 176 mm. No crabs were caught at the 40 and 50 fathom stations. Legal males were most abundant at the 20 and 30 fathom stations.

Personnel: Dee Stringham, Vessel Captain  
Laimons Osis, Biologist  
Tom Gaumer, Biologist  
Charlotte Miller, Observer

	DEPTH - (Fathoms)					Total
	15	20	30	40	50	
No. Pots Sampled	5	5	5	5	5	25
No. Crabs Caught	45	118	129	0	0	292
No. Legal Males	16	110	121	0	0	247
No. Sublegal Males	23	7	8	0	0	38
No. Females	6	1	0	0	0	7
% Berried Females	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Sublegals and Females	64.4	6.8	6.6	0	0	15.4
<u>Softshell Sample</u>						
No. Legal Males	3	13	10	0	0	26
% Legal Males	18.8	11.8	8.3	0	0	10.5
No. Sublegal Males	6	1	6	0	0	13
% Sublegal Males	26.1	14.3	75.0	0	0	34.2
No. Females	1	0	0	0	0	1
% Females	16.7	0	0	0	0	100.0
<u>Mean Lengths (mm)</u>						
Legal Males	171.9	175.7	176.2	0	0	175.7
Sublegal Males	148.2	150.0	147.4	0	0	148.4
Females	136.3	172.0	0	0	0	141.4
Legal Softshell	166.7	171.3	171.0	0	0	170.7
No. Pots Pulled	5	5	5	5	5	25
No. Pounds Landed	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mean Catch Per Pot	3.2	22.0	24.2	0	0	9.9
Soak Time - hours	24	24	24	24	24	24