

Osis

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Marine Region
Newport, Oregon

Cruise Report 80-CR-2

DUNGENESS CRAB INVESTIGATIONS

Vessel: M/V Spirit

Date: November 5, 10, 1980

Location: A line southwesterly from the Heads at Port Orford.

Purpose: To determine condition of legal size male Dungeness crab.

To obtain data on sublegal and female crab location and number.

Procedure: Clusters of 5 pots were set at 10 fm intervals from 10 to 50 fm in an area fished during the first part of the season. All pots contained one bait box of squid. Escape ports were screened and the gear was to be set one day and pulled the following day. All crab caught were to be measured and counted and condition determined by the pinch method on all legal males then returned to the water.

Results: Inclement weather set in on the day the pots were set so they were not pulled until 4 days later. Five crabs were caught in 10 fm and one at 40 fm. Three of those were legal males. All the pots at 10 fm contained a few pieces of wood and vegetation was caught in the pot mesh. One pot was lost at 10 fm, but one lost during the season was retrieved.

Fishing is not done outside 30 fm in this area and crabs at times do not appear inshore until mid December according to local fishermen. This is one of those years. Several large sea stars, 4 lingcod and one octopus were caught.

Personnel: Les Anderson, Stan Anderson, Captains

Al Mirati, Biologist

Darrell Demory, Biologist in charge

