

Osis

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Marine Region
Newport, Oregon

Cruise Report 80-CR-1

DUNGENESS CRAB INVESTIGATIONS

Vessel: M/V RUJAC

Date: November 27-28, 1980

Location: Eight miles north of Coos Bay entrance.

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 fathom intervals from 10 to 50 fathoms in an area fished during the first part of the season. All pots contained two bait boxes 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 pinch method on all legal males, then returned to the water.

Results: All pots were retrieved and contained a total of 242 crabs, 198 of which were legal males. Crabs were caught at all depths but were most abundant in 20 to 40 fms. Few crabs were caught in 50 fms. The incidence of softshell crab was low at 11.1%, but was highest at 10 and 50 fms. The average size of legal male crab was 178.5 mm. Size was largest at 40 fms and smallest at 10 fms. The incidence of sublegal crabs was low considering the screened escape ports. Only one berried female was caught.

Personnel: Frank Warner, Captain
Laimons Osis, Biologist
Darrell Demory, Biologist in charge

