Osis

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE Marine Region Newport, Oregon

Cruise Report 80-CR-3

DUNGENESS CRAB INVESTIGATIONS

Vessel:

Jo Marie

Date:

November 12, 1980

Location:

Heceta Head

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 fms 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:

All pots were retrieved and contained 864 crabs of which 700 were legal males. The incidence of soft crab was low at 4.4% with all but one being Grade II. About one-fifth of the catch was sublegal males with only a few females, none of which were berried. There was a tendency to get more sublegal crabs in deeper water. Size was about average and was fairly uniform at all depths.

An additional note, this area and beyond to 80 fms was being fished when the season closed September 15.

Personnel: Phil Carley, Captain

Tom Gaumer, Biologist

Darrell Demory, Biologist in charge

Commercial Crab Sea Sample

Date: 11-12-80 Boat:	Jo Marie Port: Newport Area: Heceta Head Depth (Fathoms)					
	12	20	oth (Fatr 30	10ms) 40	50	Total
No. Pots sampled	5	5	5	5	5	25
No. Crabs caught	112	194	178	199	181	864
No. Legal males	97	164	159	140	140	700
No. Sublegal males	9	29	1 9	55	36	148
No. Females	6	1	0	4	5	16
% Berried females	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Sublegals and females	13.4	15.8	10.7	29.6	22.7	19.0
Softshell Sample						
No. Legal males % Legal males No. Sublegal males % Sublegal males No. Females % Females	100.0 0 0 0 0	5.0 11 37.9 0	3.8 9 47.4 0	3.6 11 20.0 0	11 7.9 5 13.9 0	31 4.4 36 24.3 0
Mean Lengths (mm)						
Legal males Sublegal males Females Legal Softshell	177.3 149.1 156.3 175.0	179.1 144.9 158.0 165.1		176.0 150.1 151.2 162.8	176.2 153.2 155.0 164.3	176.3 149.4 154.9 164.6
No. Pots pulled No. Pounds landed Mean catch per pot (legals) Soak Time	5 19.4 24 h	32.8	5 - 31.8 rs 24 hi	28.0	28 . 0	25 - 28. 0 rs 24 hrs