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**Students of Bohemia Elementary learn about  
the Oregon Dungeness Crab Fishery**

Cottage Grove, Oregon May 2010 – The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students of Bohemia Elementary have been introduced to one of Oregon’s “best kept secrets”. Earlier in the school year the first graders were introduced to various crabs when learning about the ocean environment and counting by 10s. Now ending the school year, the Dungeness Crab Fishery was integrated in a farm unit when learning about Oregon’s diverse commodities.

The 70 first graders learned that along Oregon’s coast, farmers are working all year long to harvest Dungeness Crab for people around the world. These farmers do not work in a field with soil but on vessels, docks and with pots. Many students touched live crab, made scientific observations and asked meaningful questions. Tasting crab was something most of the 6 or 7 year olds have never experienced! Each student tried a piece and more often than not asked for seconds or thirds. Trying to lift a pot in the classroom needed much teamwork! The real photos helped tell the story of the Dungeness Crab Fishery “From Sea to Plate.”

Bohemia Elementary first graders have participated in an integrated farm unit in the past but have never included the Dungeness Crab Fishery. Education around agriculture, commodities and being responsible stewards of natural resources is greatly needed in elementary schools. Students thrive when learning about high interest topics such as the natural world around them, especially when learning may be connected to their lives.

Nick and Hugh facilitated one of the most meaningful learning experiences of the school year. Their education outreach impacted the 70 first graders, the first grade teachers and all of their families. Thank you for teaching us about the Dungeness Crab Fishery.