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August 16, 2010

Contact: Nick Furman (541)267-5810

Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission

nick@oregondungeness.org

www.oregondungeness.org

“CRAB SEASON ENDS ON HIGH NOTE”

Coos Bay, OR – The annual Dungeness crab season came to an end on Saturday, August 14th as crabbers experienced another stellar harvest along the Oregon coast. Landings over the past 8½ months were in excess of 23.1 million lbs, some 10 million lbs above last season’s ‘average’ fishery.

“This is the fourth time in the past decade that landings have exceeded 20 million lbs.” said Nick Furman, Executive Director of the industry-funded Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission (ODCC). “Conditions off our coast and in our bays and estuaries are certainly conducive to healthy crab stocks at this point in time.”

The harvest will go down in the books as the third best season on record, dollar wise. Landed value (to the boat) of the ‘crop’ was \$44.5 million dollars, with related activity such as processing raising the associated economic impact in coastal communities to over \$90 million dollars. Newport had the highest landings at 6.8 million lbs, followed closely by Charleston with 6.7 million lbs. Astoria came in third with 4.6 million lbs of crab delivered to local seafood processors.

Fishermen have until the end of the month to bring their pots back in to the dock, but the lids must be open and the pots unbaited so no crabs are caught during this two week period. Organized efforts conducted by both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the ODCC to recover lost and stuck crab pots will begin in early September.

Oregon’s Dungeness crab fishery is two months away from receiving *Marine Stewardship Council* (MSC) certification, the globally-accepted standard that measures a fishery’s harvest methods, management practices, ecological impacts and sustainability against strict scientific standards. It will join the pink shrimp fishery as the second ‘state managed’ fishery in Oregon to achieve the coveted certification. Troll-caught Albacore also recently achieved MSC certification, giving Oregonians three ‘certifiably sustainable’ seafoods to eat and enjoy with a clear conscience...

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The ODCC is an industry-funded commodity commission under the umbrella of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, representing 429 limited-entry Oregon crab permit holders harvesting a renewable resource in a sustainable fishery. Our mission is to enhance the image of Oregon’s Dungeness crab industry and increase opportunities for profitability through promotion, education and research. The Dungeness crab fishery is the most valuable single-specie fishery in Oregon and Dungeness crab was recently named the official ‘State Crustacean’