



Contact:

Kathleen Pozarycki
Senior Planner
Snohomish County
4258-388-6414
Kathleen.Pozarycki@snoco.org

Contact:

Bob Hillman
Project Coordinator
City of Everett
425-268-8495

Educational Resources Available on Crabbing Opening Weekend

Instructional videos, information and resources can be found online to help reduce the loss of crab pots.

EVERETT, Wash., June 26, 2018 – The Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee and the Northwest Straits Initiative are working to prevent lost or damaged crab pots on opening weekend. Each year an estimated 12,000 crab pots are lost in Puget Sound and thanks to the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative, crabbers are learning how to avoid adding to the problem. Lost crab pots continue to capture crab with no one to harvest them; resulting in nearly 180,000 Dungeness crab lost each year.

Lost crab pots can often be prevented by following the Northwest Straits' checklist:

- AVOID MARINE TRANSIT AND FERRY LANES
- CHECK TIDES AND CURRENTS. Avoid crabbing during strong tidal changes and currents.
- MAKE BUOYS MORE VISIBLE. Add a second buoy or stick and flag.
- USE A WEIGHTED LINE to sink below the surface and avoid being cut by passing boats.
- WEIGHT YOUR POT so they do not move in high currents or tidal changes
- USE LONGER LINE. Use 1/3 more line than water depth to allow for tide changes
- SECURE LID AND ESCAPE PANELS WITH BIODEGRADABLE COTTON ESCAPE CORD. This allows crabs to escape from lost pots after the cord degrades.
- STAY WITH YOUR POT. A watched pot will bring home more crab.

This checklist and additional information can also be found at www.derelectgear.org. Here you will find instructional videos, helpful apps and other resources to help you catch more crab and avoid having your crab pots become one of the 12,000 lost.

Opening day crabbers should be on the lookout for volunteers with the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee and Washington State University Extension Beach Watchers at local boat launches June 30, July 1 and July 7th. They will be providing educational materials including free rot cord and gauges for measuring your catch. Come with any questions you may have on how to correctly set up your crab pot so you can catch more crab. The goal is more crab for you, less lost pots for Puget Sound.

Relevant URLs:

- www.derelectgear.org
- www.nwstraits.org/our-work/catch-more-crab/
- <http://www.snocomrc.org/>

About the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

The Marine Resource Committee's (MRC) goal is to understand, protect, and restore the marine and estuarine ecosystems of the county. Local citizens appointed by County Council use science-based information to develop projects and help shape local and regional marine conservation policy. MRC members work to complement ongoing efforts by both government and non-profit agencies. There are seven MRCs in the Northwest Straits region of the Puget Sound. For more information, visit www.snocomrc.org.

About the Northwest Straits Foundation

The Northwest Straits Foundation is the non-profit partner in the Northwest Straits Initiative, a regional marine conservation program authorized by Congress in 1998. Join us on Twitter, Facebook and at <http://nwstraitsfoundation.org/>.

About Snohomish County Public Works

The Snohomish County Public Works Department constructs and maintains county roads; controls and manages surface water quantity, quality, and fish habitats; and oversees the recycling and disposal of solid waste. The department's main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201. For

more information about Snohomish County Public Works, visit
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks.

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