



Dungeness crab Landing Tax Rates in California, Oregon, and Washington

This document provides general information on current landing taxes or fees for commercial California Dungeness crab in comparison to those in Oregon and Washington. In California and Oregon, funds raised from landing taxes are generally used for management, regulation, and oversight of fishing activities by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Oregon’s Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW recently created a position for a Dungeness crab project leader to coordinate species management within the state and represent Oregon in the tri-state management process, with funding from commercial permits and landing fees (State of Oregon 2009). In Washington, landings fees are collected and appropriated by the Washington Department of Revenue, although details of appropriation are unclear as of this document (Washington State Department of Revenue 2009). Currently in California the landing tax for Dungeness crab is \$0.0019 per pound (California Department of Fish and Game Code 8051). Oregon and Washington implement landing tax rates based on ex-vessel price/landing value (calculated from previous year average); the landing fee for Oregon is 1.09% of ex-vessel price (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 2009) and 2.25% in Washington (Washington State Department of Revenue 2009). As an illustration, Oregon’s average ex-vessel price was \$2.38 per pound in the 2007-2008 season, therefore the landing tax for the 2008-2009 season was \$0.0259 per pound (Oregon Dungeness Crab Advisory Committee 2008). See Table 1 below.

A new California landing tax bill, AB 489, was introduced in the 2009-2010 Legislature to change the landing tax from the current per pound rates to rates based on ex-vessel price/landed value (how much money the landing party earned per pound in the previous year)(AB 489). Specifically, the bill sets the landing tax to 1.5% of the landed value beginning January 1st, 2011, which will become 3% in 2013 (AB 489). As of the end of the 2009-2010, the bill remains inactive, but may be subject to re-submittal in future sessions (LegisWeb 2009). Arguments in favor of the bill highlight a much-needed funding increase for the Department of Fish and Game, although potential revenue from landing tax change is unknown as of April, 2009. Opposition groups cite potential financial burden on commercial fishers, and uncertainty on how much revenue would be generated based on ex-vessel value (Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water 2009).

Table 1. Landing Tax Rates in California, Oregon, and Washington

State	California	Oregon*	Washington*
Landing Tax Rates	\$0.0019	1.09%	2.25%

*Collects commercial landing tax based on % of average ex-vessel price.



~California Dungeness Crab Task Force~

<http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/04/dungeness-crab-task-force/>

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Field Code Changed

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