

Host Location: Fellow location could be flexible but possibilities include either the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Port Townsend office, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Olympia office, or other partner office locations.

Host Contact Information: Julie S. Barber, Senior Shellfish Biologist, Swinomish Fisheries Department, PO Box 368, 11426 Moorage Way, La Conner, WA 98257

Position Description:

The mission statement of the recently formed Pacific Northwest Crab Research Group (PNWCRG) is to promote sustainable Dungeness crab populations in the Pacific Northwest. The PNWCRG consists of individuals representing researchers and managers from western Washington tribes, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and major universities. The initial goals of the PNWCRG are to: (1) collaborate to monitor and forecast crab populations to achieve sustainable fisheries in waters of the Pacific Northwest; (2) collaborate to better understand and sustain the ecological role of crab in waters of the Pacific Northwest and; (3) collaborate where monitoring methods produce information addressing multiple critical data gaps. The fellow would serve as the first program coordinator for the PNWCRG, formalizing the structure of our group and organizing our research and communication efforts; this will eventually lead to improved management and standardization of Dungeness crab research. Coordinated PNWCRG programs that are already underway include a statewide larval crab light trap study and the initial efforts of a ventless (escape-rings closed) trap survey for juvenile and subadult crab.

Specifically, the fellow would be responsible for completing the following tasks:

- Writing a paper formalizing the PNWCRG's initial mission, goals, objectives, and subcommittee research efforts.
- Applying for grants to facilitate future PNWCRG studies.
- Developing standardized protocols for long-term data collection, management, and entry. This work will include investigating data sharing agreements among PNWCRG partners.
- Creating educational communication and outreach packages and leading the effort to improve the public's understanding of Dungeness crab.
- Joining regional partners in the field to assist with data collection and ensuring standardization of methods.
- Serving as the lead coordinator for the PNWCRG, facilitating group communications, organizing group and subcommittee meetings, and mediating diverse research interests.