Commercial Crab Fishing in Oregon

Ocean Commercial and Charter Vessel Fishing Fatalities, Oregon 2003-2009

- Astoria
- Newport
- Charleston
- Crab boat
- Fishing boat
- Overboard: 3 1
- Capsized: 11 15

Principal fishing ports (crab and fish)

Crab boats
14 worker fatalities in 8 incidents:
- 3 overboard at sea
- 1 in capsized vessel in surf off beach
- 10 in capsized vessels crossing bar
  (6 of 10 crossing Tillamook bar at Garibaldi)

Fishing boats
3 worker fatalities, 13 other fatalities in charter vessels:
- 1 lost at sea
- 1 overboard at sea
- 14 in capsized vessels crossing bar
  (11 of 14 crossing Tillamook bar at Garibaldi)

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CURRENT FISHING FATALITY RATES

- All national fisheries: 115
- Pacific fisheries – California, Oregon, Washington: 240
- Alaska fisheries: 105
- Pacific shellfish fisheries: 360
- Northwest Dungeness crab fishery: 460
- Alaska Bering Sea crab fishery: 305
- Alaska Bering Sea crab fishery in the 1990s: 770
  (before gear, vessel, and training safety initiatives)

COMPARISON TO OTHER WORKERS

- Oregon tree fallers in logging (high risk): 260
- Oregon log truck drivers (high risk): 240
- All workers: 4


Crab Fishing Safety

- Attend safety drill training (contact the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission or U.S. Coast Guard for local schedules).
- Policy: Require the use of lifejackets during bar crossings in treacherous conditions (or in any conditions).
- Policy: Expand requirements for stability reports to all crab boats (currently only required for boats over 79 feet long).
- Policy: Make dockside inspections mandatory (currently voluntary).
- Policy: Consider the use of quotas to eliminate derby fishing.