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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We're Back! Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival Celebrates Olympic Coast Cuisine

October 8-10, 2021

Port Angeles, Wash., Aug. 2, 2021 – **The Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival**, one of the country's most acclaimed seafood events, served-up a record **nine tons** of fresh-caught Dungeness crab in 2019 before taking an unanticipated mandatory hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Now, this signature Pacific Northwest culinary event is back and preparing for another "*crabtastic*" year. **CrabFest** will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 8-10, at the **Port Angeles City Pier**, the **Gateway Center**, and **Red Lion Hotel Port Angeles Harbor** parking lot. Admission is free.

"We've made changes and accommodations for COVID-19," says CrabFest Executive Director Scott Nagel. "Our plans have been approved by the county health department and we will be prepared to handle whatever protocols may be in place at the time of the festival. Our staff and volunteers are committed to producing a safe event and we are outdoors or under tents."

The Food!

While there are concerns nationally about seafood's disappearance from restaurant menus due to soaring wholesale costs attributed to COVID-related port congestion, a lack of fishermen and other shortages, CrabFest is positioned to avoid these challenges. The festival is connected directly to local fishermen and suppliers with their own dedicated crab boats. There will be fresh whole Dungeness Crab from High Tide Seafoods, Alaska Weathervane Scallops, sourced using their own boats, raw and BBQ oysters from Taylor Shellfish, which has been growing Northwest oysters since the 1890's, and halibut, cod, salmon and shrimp.

Advance discounted tickets for our featured Dungeness crab dinners are now available online at www.crabfestival.org. Advance ticket holders will have a designated line at the festival for priority seating and will receive a 10 percent discount on merchandise. Crab dinner tickets purchased at the festival may be at market price due to current conditions in the seafood industry. Visitors can also pickup "crabs-to-go" at our new curbside pickup location.

Throughout the grounds, 14 local and regional restaurants will serve-up everything from crab bisque to seafood gumbo, scallops, chowder, crab cakes, fish tacos, fish and chips (halibut and cod), paella – more than 50 dishes! Meat and vegetarian dishes are also on the menu plus great local desserts like Sunny Farms pumpkin pie and Graysmarsh Farm blackberry pie. Wine from 8 North Olympic Peninsula wineries, local and regional beer will be featured.

More Fun!

In addition to great food, there will be more than 70 juried craftspeople, nonprofit and sponsor booths on the pier, the amazing **Grab-a-Crab Derby** where families can catch live crabs in giant tanks, and of course live music every evening in the **First Fed Crab Central Pavilion Tent**. Saturday activities will include a **Welcoming Ceremony** with the **Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe**, an **Olympic Peninsula Rowing Association** demonstration and a **Peninsula College 5kFun Run**. Some events previously featured at CrabFest are temporarily on COVID-19 hiatus so we can ensure a safe and healthy environment for festival goers and event presenters. These events will return in 2022.

Sponsors

The festival is pleased and honored to announce **First Fed** as a title sponsor of both the **First Fed Crab Central Pavilion Tent** and the **First Fed Gateway Plaza**. In recognition of the significant level of support provided by CrabFest's title sponsors, which includes the **Red Lion Hotel Port Angeles Harbor**, organizers created a new **Platinum** sponsorship category. And of course, the festival would not be possible without the support of more than 35 companies, including **Presenting Sponsors Black Ball Ferry Lines** and the **Peninsula Daily News**, who contribute to its success and allow us to continue CrabFest as a free festival for the community and beyond.

A Perfect Getaway

CrabFest is a seasonal highlight for Port Angeles, located at the Gateway to Olympic National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Center. The region is long known as an outdoor enthusiast's paradise with a growing reputation for culinary adventure. During the fall, travelers can visit artisan wineries, take a county farm tour and savor local cuisine at a waterfront resort. The area's diverse geography features glacially sculpted peaks and towering old growth forest, wild ocean beaches and lush estuaries enhanced by living tribal cultures, historic seaport towns, and rolling agricultural land. For more information go to Visitportangeles.com, and Olympicpeninsula.org.

CrabFest Information

The **Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival** celebrates not only the aquaculture, agriculture, and maritime traditions of Washington State's Olympic Peninsula, but brings food, art, music, Native American culture and children's activities into one spectacular three-day event for the whole family. "CrabFest" has been named one of the Top 100 Events by the American Bus Association and has been recognized by Coastal Living Magazine, GQ Magazine, Saveur and others as one of the top seafood festivals in North America. CrabFest is a Washington State nonprofit corporation.

Tickets and information at www.crabfestival.org. E-mail your questions to info@crabfestival.org, or phone 360-452-6300.

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