

Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays & Tributaries

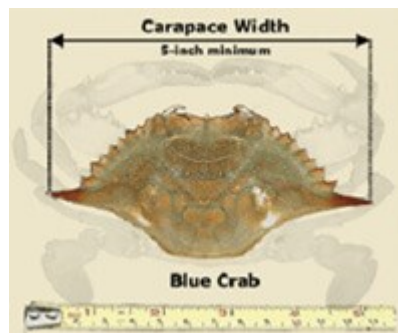
Season

April 1–Dec 31.

Harvest Restrictions

- There are no license or registration requirements.
- There are no time of day restrictions.
- The taking of sponge crabs is prohibited.

Minimum Size Limits (measured from tip to tip of spikes)



- Hard crabs—5 inches.*
- Soft crabs—3½ inches.
- Peeler crabs
 - April 1–July 14—3¼ inches
 - July 15–Dec 31—3½ inches
- Mature female crabs—no minimum size.

Recreational Crabbing Daily Catch Limits

The daily catch limit in the waters of the Coastal Bays of the Atlantic Ocean and their tidal tributaries is:

- One bushel per person.
- Two bushels per boat if two or more individuals are on the boat.

It is Legal

To crab in the Coastal Bays of Maryland's Atlantic Ocean and coastal tributaries using:

- No more than 600 feet of baited trotline, with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end; or
- No more than two 600-foot trotlines if two or more persons are in the boat; or

- Dip nets and any number of handlines; or
- No more than 10 or a combination of 10 collapsible crab traps or crab net rings per person from docks, piers, bridges, boats or shoreline; or
- No more than 25, or a combination of 25, collapsible crab traps or crab net rings, if two or more persons are in a boat.

For waterfront property owners to set a maximum of two crab pots at their property, provided that:

- Pots are marked with the owner's name and address or DNRid; and
- Crab pots must have two cull rings, one measuring at least 23¹/₁₆ inches and one at least 25¹/₁₆ inches, located in the exterior side panel or the top panels of the pot.
- Pot cull rings must be closed from April 23–May 31.
- Crab pots must have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape not larger than 1³/₄ inches high by 4³/₄ inches long.

Blue Crab Identification



Sally

An immature (adolescent) female blue crab is easily identified as having an inverted "V" or triangular shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



Sook

A mature (adult) female blue crab identified as having an inverted "U" or bell-shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



Jimmy

A mature male blue crab with a long, narrow, inverted "T" shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.

