

Season

April 1 through December 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 through July 14—3¼ inches
 - July 15 through December 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:

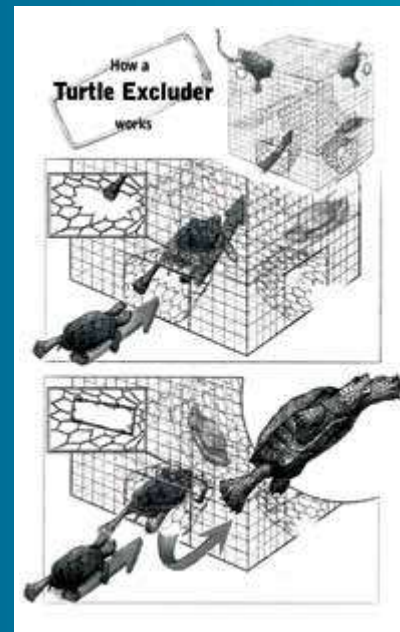
- No more than 600 feet of baited trotline, with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end; or
- No more than two 600-foot trotlines if two or more persons are in the boat; or
- Dip nets and any number of handlines; or
- No more than 10 or a combination of 10 collapsible crab traps 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 2 cull rings, one measuring at least 2¾ inches and one at least 2⅝ inches, located in the exterior side panel or the top panels of the pot.
- Pot cull rings must be closed from April 23 through 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 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long.

TURTLE EXCLUDERS ARE REQUIRED

Turtle excluders are required in recreational crab pots in Maryland. These devices prevent terrapins from entering a crab pot without hindering blue crab entry. Without turtle excluders, terrapins can enter crab pots and drown. To get instructions for making your own turtle excluder, visit <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/crabpot.aspx>



BLUE CRAB IDENTIFICATION



SALLY

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



SOOK

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



JIMMY

A mature male blue crab, known as a Jimmy, has a long, narrow, inverted "T" shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.

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