

# Summary of 2006 Recreational Crab Regulations

SEASON: April 01 – December 15, 2006

## License structure

- \* \$2 for a holder of a Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing License
  - \* \$5 for a resident
  - \* \$10 for a non-resident
  - \* \$40 Chesapeake Bay Special Pleasure Boat Sport Fishing License (CBSPBL)
- A new license for a Recreational Crabbing Boat established at \$15
  - The \$40 CBSPBL is valid as a Recreational Crabbing Boat License. The complimentary fishing license issued to the boat owner of a licensed sportfishing boat is valid as the owner's individual recreational crabbing license.
  - Closed Wednesdays – except handlines and dip nets or pots at private piers.
  - Recreational crabbers may set recreational crabbing gear and crab from boats during Apr., Oct., Nov., and Dec.
    - During Apr., Oct., Nov., Dec.
      - between ½ hour after sunrise to 5:00 PM main Bay.
      - between ½ hour after sunrise to sunset in tributaries.
    - During May, Jun., Jul., Aug., and Sept.
      - Between ½ hour before sunrise to 5: PM in the main Bay
      - Between ½ hour before sunrise to sunset in the tributaries.

Recreational Crabbers may not set recreational crabbing gear and crab from boats on Wednesday except handlines, dip nets and pots at private piers.

Minimum size April 1 – July 14 = 5" Male Hard 3 ¼ " Peeler  
July 15 – Dec., 15 = 5 ¼" Male Hard 3 ½" Peeler

The minimum size for soft crab is 3 ½ inches during the entire season.  
There is no minimum size for mature females.

The crab trap sold as "CRAB ALERT" is not legal in Maryland. Only manually closing traps are allowed. It does not comply with Maryland definition of a collapsible crab trap.

- **INDIVIDUAL CRABBING**

- A License is required of an individual who uses the following gear or takes the following quantity of crabs
  - Trotline (1200 feet of baited line maximum allowed) floats must be same color, size and shape.
  - 11 to 30 traps or rings.
  - Up to 10 eel pots for own bait.
  - More than 2 dozen with a limit of one bushel of hard crabs.
  - More than 1 dozen with a limit of 2 dozen soft crabs or peelers

- Cont'd.
  - A license is **not required** of an individual who uses only the following gear and takes the following quantity of crabs.
    - 10 or fewer traps and rings.
    - Dipnets.
    - Handlines.
    - No more than 2 dozen hard crabs.
    - No more than 1 dozen soft crabs or peelers.
  - **OWNER OF PRIVATE SHORELINE PROPERTY**
    - Creel limits vary depending whether the crabber is licensed or not. ( see individual crabbing information above.)
    - 2 crab pots from a private property or pier or within 100 yards of shore and attached by a line.
    - 2 Cull rings required in upper chamber
      - One measuring at least 2 3/16"
      - One measuring 2 5/16"
      - Turtle Reduction Device no larger than 1 3/4 X 4 3/4
  - **CRABBING FROM A BOAT**
    - A recreational crabbing boat may be licensed.
      - The fee for a recreational crabbing boat license is \$15
    - The owner of the licensed recreational crabbing boat is issued a complimentary statewide Recreational Crabbing license.
    - The Chesapeake Bay Special Pleasure Boat Sport Fishing license (Fee of \$40) is valid as a Recreational Crabbing Boat license.
  - **CRABBING GEAR**
    - If the boat is licensed for Recreational Crabbing by either The Recreational Crabbing Boat license (new at a \$15 fee) or the Chesapeake Bay Special Pleasure Boat license or at least one person in the boat possess an individual recreational crabbing license .
      - 1200 feet of trotline (baited portion)
      - Maximum 30 crab traps or rings
      - Handlines
      - Dipnets
  - **CATCH LIMITS FOR A LICENSED BOAT**
    - Without any person in the licensed boat who also possesses an individual Recreational Crabbing license.
      - 1 Bushel of hard crabs.
      - 2 dozen soft crabs or peelers.
    - **Owner of the licensed boat in the boat with unlicensed crabbers;**

- 1 Bushel of hard crabs.
- 2 dozen soft crabs.
- **If 2 or more licensed persons are in the licensed boat**
  - 2 Bushels of hard crabs.
  - 2 Dozen soft crabs or peelers.
- **One licensed crabber in the boat alone or with unlicensed crabbers.**
  - 1 Bushel of hard crabs.
  - 2 dozen soft crabs or peelers.
- **If 2 or more persons in the unlicensed boat**
  - 2 Bushels of hard crabs.
  - 2 Dozen soft crabs or peelers.
- **Special note:** A person less than 16 years of age is exempt from needing a license, but unless they purchase a crabbing license, they are restricted to the same limits as the unlicensed Crabber.

**Possession of soft crabs and peelers by anglers and charter boats;**

No limit for possession of soft crabs and peelers for use as bait for the purpose of sportfishing.