

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services

Chesapeake Bay Recreational Hard Crab Catch and Possession Limits — April through June 2023

WHAT THIS NOTICE DOES

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces modifications to the recreational male hard crab catch and possession limits for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries for April through June 2023. Effective 12:01 a.m. April 1, 2023, male hard crab catch and possession limits for individuals on a vessel are:

Daily catch and possession boat limits for April 1 – June 30, 2023		
Unlicensed Boat	With 1 unlicensed individual	2 dozen male crabs
	With 2 or more unlicensed individuals	4 dozen male crabs
	With 1 or more licensees and any number of unlicensed individuals	1 bushel of male crabs
Licensed Boat	With any number of licensed or unlicensed individuals	1 bushel of male crabs

Male hard crab catch and possession limits are based on results of the 2022 winter crab dredge survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and consultation with advisory groups and stakeholders. Possession limits for July through December 2023 will be determined when results from the 2023 winter crab dredge survey are available.

WHERE THIS NOTICE APPLIES

This applies to recreational crabbing on vessels in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, including the Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River. This change does not affect recreational crabbing from shore in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. This change also does not affect recreational crabbing from shore or on a vessel in the Atlantic Ocean, its coastal bays, or their tributaries.

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

This action is necessary to ensure male blue crab harvest does not exceed the Chesapeake Bay male conservation trigger referenced in Amendment 2 to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan.

WHO THIS NOTICE AFFECTS

This applies to recreational crabbers who harvest male blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

AUTHORITY

Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.03.14G.

Josh Kurtz
Acting Secretary of Natural Resources