Blue Crab Regulations / Public Hearing

AGENDA

Vessel Day Off and Display of Day Off

- Background
- Proposal Details
- Questions & Answers
- Public Comment

Background

Vessel Day Off

- The action proposes to amend Regulation .14 under COMAR 08.02.03 Blue Crabs
- Purpose: modifying the commercial crabbing day off rules in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries to 1) allow a vessel to be used on the day the owner of the vessel has declared off and 2) no longer require a licensee's day off to be displayed on the vessel

Proposal Details

Regulation .14 – Vessel Day Off

- Requires individual crabbers to declare a day off (either Sunday or Monday) and display that day on their vessel
- Vessel cannot be used on owner's day off
- When a vessel is shared by two licensees, current rule requires both licensees to take the same day off
- This action allows licensees to take the day off they prefer while still being able to crab six days per week
- Natural Resource Police have access to licensing system to confirm which day off a licensee has declared

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

QUESTIONS

- *Questions must be directed to the Department – not members of the public*
- *Questions must focus on the proposal*
- *One person will speak at a time*

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- *Comment due by February 23, 2026*
- *Comments must be directed to the Department – not members of the public*
- *Comments must focus on the proposal*
- *One person will speak at a time*
- *Be respectful of other viewpoints*
- *https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/regulations/changes.aspx#craboff*
- *Fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@Maryland.gov*

Fishing & Boating Services

Blue Crab Public Hearing – February 2, 2026