

## **BLUE CRABS – Crab Pot Lines Housekeeping**

### **What was proposed?**

The Department proposed modifying a crab pot line in Fishing Bay because two points were misidentified when coordinates were assigned to the previous version of the crab pot lines.

### **Why is this change necessary?**

The Department modified its crab pot lines in March 2024 by assigning coordinates to many points in regulation that had previously been used to delineate areas where crab pots may be set that did not have specific latitude and longitude coordinates assigned to them. In doing so, two points in Fishing Bay were misidentified. Because of this, the crab pot line and the oyster power dredge line which previously had been identical were no longer the same. This meant that there were two sets of buoy lines delineating the crab pot line versus the oyster dredge line. The buoy lines are approximately 20 yards apart and could cause confusion for harvesters and law enforcement. The Department corrected this coordinate in order to realign these two lines, which will reduce regulatory complexity and better communicate to harvesters where certain gears are allowed.

### **Who will this affect?**

The regulation affects commercial crabbers who use crab pots in this area.

### **What is the specific regulatory action?**

Amend Regulation .07 under COMAR 08.02.03 Blue Crabs.

### **Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested individuals?**

- The idea was scoped with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their meetings in October 2024.
- The idea was scoped with the general public October 21, 2024, through November 5, 2024.

### **Regulatory Process**

- The Department followed our normal [procedures](#) as this concept moved forward.
- At the conclusion of the scoping process, the Department determined that the action is necessary and appropriate. The rules are being promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.
- The General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal was printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register on January 10, 2025.
- A 30 day public comment period began on the day of publication.
- After review of the comments, the Department adopted the changes.
- The final action was published in the Maryland Register on March 7, 2025.

### **Effective Date of Change**

March 17, 2025