

BLUE CRABS – Crab Pot Lines Housekeeping

What is being considered?

The Department is considering 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 would like to correct 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?

These changes will affect commercial crabbers who use crab pots in this area.

When would this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the spring of 2025. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal [procedures](#) if this concept moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?

This idea was scoped with the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission at their meetings in October 2024.