As of January 1, 2014, registration is required to use crab pots off private shoreline property. The Private Waterfront Property Crab Pot registration is free and valid for 365 days from the date you register.

Who needs to register?
The owner, lessee or tenant, or designated shoreline community association representative of shoreline property to the Chesapeake Bay or tidal tributary. Recreational crabbers in the Potomac River, Atlantic Ocean, coastal bays, and their tributaries do NOT need to register their crab pots.

What does the waterfront property crab pot registration cost?
The registration is free.

Why is the waterfront property crab pot registration required?
To provide improved information on recreational crabbing effort and to reach out to property owners to provide information about using turtle saving devices. Turtle excluders are required in recreational crab pots in Maryland. These devices prevent terrapins from entering a crab pot without hindering blue crab entry. Without turtle excluders, terrapins can enter crab pots and drown. You can make your own turtle excluder or visit a retail store to purchase one for your pots. When replacing a crab pot, look for one with turtle excluders already installed.

Who may use crab pots to harvest blue crabs recreationally?
Only an owner, lessee, tenant or guest of a private shoreline property owner may use crab pots to catch blue crabs recreationally. The maximum number of pots that can be used is two per property, regardless of the number of owners, lessees, or tenants. The crab pots must be clearly marked with the DNRid number, which is printed on the registration card.

What is the difference between this waterfront property crab pot registration and a crabbing license?
The crab pot registration does not convey the privileges of a recreational crabbing license. In order to use other licensed gear such as a trotline, collapsible crab traps, net rings, seines, or eel pots you must have a crabbing license. In order to catch more than 2-dozen hard crabs with a limit of 1-bushel, or more than 1-dozen soft or peeler crabs with a limit of 2-dozen, you must have a crabbing license.
Refer to the Maryland Fishing Guide for comprehensive crabbing rules and license information.

How do I register?
The Private Waterfront Property Crab Pot registration is quick and easy through the online DNR MD Outdoors System at https://mdoutdoors.maryland.gov/login. You may call 410-260-3220 for assistance or visit your local DNR Service Center.

DNR Service Centers are open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday (except State holidays). Call a center near you for directions or additional information.

Service Center Location	Phone
Annapolis	410-260-3220
Bel Air	410-836-4550
Centreville	410-819-4100
Frederick	240-236-9950
Salisbury	410-713-3840
Solomons	410-535-3382