Recreational Crabbing Rules for Chesapeake Bay

LEGAL HARVEST – minimum allowable size – male only!
April 1 to July 14 – 5" hard crab – 3 1/4" peeler
July 15 to December 15 – 5 1/4" hard crab – 3 1/2" peeler

There is NO recreational harvest of female hard or peeler crabs.
Soft crabs April 1 – December 15 – 3 1/2”

Sally – CANNOT HARVEST
An immature (adolescent) female blue crab, known as a Sally or She-Crab, is easily identified as having an inverted “V” or triangular shaped apron and red-tipped claws.

Sook – CANNOT HARVEST
A mature (adult) female blue crab, known as a Sook is identified as having an inverted “U” or bell-shaped apron and red-tipped claws.

Jimmy – CAN HARVEST
A mature male blue crab, known as a Jimmy, has a long, narrow, inverted “T” shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.