

Summary of Maryland's 2008 Emergency Crabbing Regulation Changes

(6/02)- the new regulations do not apply to the ocean and coast bays.

Recreational:

- No catching of female crabs (except soft crabs) – effective as of June 1

Commercial:

- Oct. 23 – no harvest of any female crabs for remainder of season
- Sept. 1 through Oct. 22 – only commercial crabbers with a female crab harvester permit can harvest female hard crabs
 - The permit cards will be issued before Sept. 1
 - The Dept. will contact the commercial crabbers in the next month regarding their allowable catch during the permit time period
 - The catch will be based on commercial crabbers harvest numbers for female crab catch during Sept. and Oct. 2004-2007.

Commercial Female Crab Limits (tentative limits as of now – will be discussed further at a TFAC meeting at Annapolis High School on Riva Road June 5 at 7pm):

September:

- Crabbers with an average historic daily catch of mature females in September of greater than or equal to 19 bushels will have a 30 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of greater than or equal to 11 bushels, but less than 19 bushels, will have a 15 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of greater than or equal to 7 bushels, but less than 11 bushels, will have a 10 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of greater than or equal to 2 bushels, but less than 7 bushels, will have a 5 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of less than 2 bushels will have a 1 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers who have not reported harvest of mature female crabs during the month of September in the years 2004 through 2007 will not be permitted to harvest female crabs in September.

October:

- Crabbers with an average daily catch in October of greater than or equal to 38 bushels will have a 50 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of greater than or equal to 18 bushels, but less than 38 bushels, will have a 30 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of greater than or equal to 8 bushels, but less than 18 bushels, will have a 15 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of greater than or equal to 2 bushels, but less than 8 bushels, will have a 5 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers with an average daily catch of less than 2 bushels will have a 1 bushel daily limit.
- Crabbers who have no reported harvest of mature female crabs during the month of October in the years 2004 through 2007 will not be permitted to harvest female crabs in October.

