



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mark Belton, Secretary
Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary

Blue Crab Industry Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2017
Calvary United Methodist Church
301 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, Md. 21401
6–8:30 p.m.

Agenda

- Announcements / Introductory Remarks / Introductions (15 minutes)
- 2017 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey Results & Management Alternatives (75 minutes)
Staff will present the results to the committee. In addition, the committee will be presented with a set of department-developed management alternatives for discussion to address the low abundance of juvenile crabs identified in the survey. These alternatives will focus on adjustments to the mature female hard crab bushel limits and season length. This set of alternatives is a starting point for the discussion. The committee will have the opportunity to offer additional insight/modifications to what staff present. Any female bushel limits/season length adjustments made will be for the July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 season. Virginia management actions (if available) and modifications to the male crab fishery will also be discussed.
Desired Outcome: (Possible Action) Question and answer session with staff on the survey results and management alternatives. The committee may decide to select one of the recommended alternatives or decide on the necessary management approach after reporting back to their regions.
- Long Term Regulatory and/or Legislative Proposals (45 minutes)
Staff will provide a legislative update and will present information on three proposals that have been brought to the department's attention in recent months. These proposals seek to modify current regulation/statute. The items of interest are as follows:
 - **Legislative Update (SB 59/HB 1314) – Crabs-Harvest –Times - Holidays**
 - **Crew Limits** (*The proposal considers removing the crew requirement for license holders with a CB6 or CB9 authorization*)
 - **Workday Hours Flexibility** (*The proposal considers allowing the current workday – either 8 or 10 hours – to occur during a longer ‘window’ of time*)
 - **Sponge Crab Importation Flexibility** (*The proposal considers granting the department public notice authority to make adjustments to the sponge crab importation time period in real time based on committee advice*)*Desired Outcome: (Action) A recommendation for support/opposition to each proposal*
- Closing Remarks / Other Business / Adjourn (15 minutes)