

Maryland Commercial Blue Crab Advisory Committee Summary 9/5/12 meeting

This meeting was scheduled at the request of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission for input from this committee on how to deal with the Male-Only LCC licenses.

A summary of Male-Only LCC's was presented along with the 3 options for how to proceed with these licenses when are not renewed. These options were presented at to the TFAC at the 7/12/12 meeting.

Those options were:

1) Permanently retire male-only LCC's as they are returned to the Department (not renewed). *New Male-only LCC licenses would not be available from the Department and the LCC target would be reduced by the number of male-only LCC licenses returned*

2) Create a new license category for male-only LCCs. *This requires legislation but would allow the Department to administer these licenses within their own category. Therefore, there would be an established price and an established target number of licenses.*

3) Hybrid Approach *This would be a combination of option 1 and 2. A ratio may be established that provides for the Department to remove a male only LCC from the target for a certain number of male-only LCCs that are re-issued. For instance 2:1 – for every three licenses returned to the Department two licenses would be removed from the LCC target and one license would be reissued as a male-only LCC.*

There was some discussion from the committee about leaving them as they are now – part of the LCC licenses, accounted for in that target number and having the same fee as an active LCC.

The committee made a motion to vote but no option received a two thirds majority of the votes. After more discussion there was another motion to vote and 10 of the 15 members chose option 1 – to permanently retire male-only LCC's as they are returned to the Department by not being renewed.

Two of the committee members went on record as being opposed to reducing the number of licenses.