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MARYLAND - VIRGINIA
"Potomac River Compact of 1958"



Potomac River Fisheries Commission

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**POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
BLUE CRAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING AGENDA

April 26, 2017

**Colonial Beach, VA
John T. Parran Hearing Room**

- 1. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.**
- 2. 2016/2017 Winter Dredge Survey Results (Presentation)**
- 3. 2016 Crab Harvest Report (Handout)**
- 4. Discussion of Possible 2017/2018 Crab Management Responses (Possible Action)**
- 5. Discussion of Licensing/Residency Requirements (Handout)**
- 6. Discussion of Commercial Crab Licenses under Corporation/Business Designation & Designated Crabber (Handout)**
- 7. BCAC Vacancy: Virginia Lower River Peeler Potter**
- 8. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman**
- 9. New Business**
- 10. Adjourn**

2017 Potomac River Crab Advisory Committee (rev 3/21/2017)

	POSITION	NAME & ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	TERM EXPIRES
M A R Y L A N D M E M B E R S	Upper River Hard Crab Potter	Dean Edward Bowie 5210 Miller Hill Rd. La Plata, MD 20646	(301) 743-7443	3-31-2021
	Middle River Hard Crab Potter	Robert A. Boarman Chairman 11500 BB Farm Place 07-28-15 Newburg, MD 20664	(301) 259-2830	3-31-2018
	Maryland Crabber (Lower River Peeler Potter)	James Berthe 19290 Pristine Way Drayden, MD 20630	H(301) 994-2728 W(301) 994-1080	3-31-2019
	Crabber-At-Large	John B. Morris, Jr. P.O. Box 555 St. Ingoes, MD 20684	(301) 872-5911 C(301) 481-1367	3-31-2018 (1 year term)
	Recreational Crabber	Capt. Bruno Vasta 13140 Soundings Road Lusby, MD 20657	H(410) 326-2622 C(410) 610-4435	3-31-2020
V I R G I N I A M E M B E R S	Upper River Hard Crab Potter	George W. Smith 14810 Conway Drive Manassas, VA 22111	H(703) 670-9316 W(703) 508-3413	3-31-2021
	Middle River Hard Crab Potter	Elgin H. Nininger Vice-chairman 20880 Ridge Rd. 07-28-15 Colonial Beach, VA 22443	(804) 224-7878	3-31-2018
	Lower River Peeler Potter	VACANT 2-19-15 Larry W. Thrift		3-31-2015
	Crabber-At-Large	Arthur Lewis Loving 561 Belle Plains Rd. Falmouth, VA 22405	H(540) 371-9410 C(540) 850-0111	3-31-2018 (1 year term)
	Recreational Crabber	Mark G. Hunter 2815 Wakefield St. Colonial Beach, VA 22443	H(704) 883-6194 F(704) 394-7000	3-31-2020

Potomac River Fisheries Commission Crab Landings Report

2016 Season (Preliminary)

-vs- 2015, 2014, 2013 and 30 Year Average

(19 yr. average for % female and 18 yr. average for soft crabs)

Month	Hard Crab	%F	Peeler	Soft	# Boats Fishing Crab Pot	Crab Pots Set	Average Number For CP		
	(bushels)		(lbs.)	(lbs.)			Pots Fished	Days Worked	Bu/100 Pots
----- totals for all gear type -----									
April 16	1,987	25	20	23	63	16,317	259	5	2.26
April 15	98	17	0	0	25	4,900	196	2	0.96
April 14	178	24	0	0	27	5,859	217	3	0.98
April 13	723	16	0	0	55	11,935	217	4	1.40
April Avg.	1,575	18	7	0	77	15,169	197	6	1.33
May 16	3,057	19	1,617	58	111	27,861	251	8	1.41
May 15	2,558	14	1,669	53	90	23,130	257	8	1.31
May 14	1,989	27	1,432	83	97	24,056	248	7	1.12
May 13	5,207	27	3,391	181	129	29,541	229	9	1.93
May Avg.	5,027	18	10,136	202	162	33,210	205	11	1.30
June 16	8,684	22	5,426	291	173	37,714	218	9	2.46
June 15	6,764	26	4,517	334	141	31,302	222	10	2.22
June 14	4,713	29	3,842	224	138	30,912	224	9	1.62
June 13	7,930	18	4,970	255	175	37,100	212	11	2.02
June Avg.	13,249	27	12,701	308	216	41,256	191	14	2.37
July 16	13,092	23	4,250	444	194	40,934	211	12	2.73
July 15	10,222	22	3,010	321	169	35,490	210	12	2.41
July 14	7,230	25	2,852	255	151	34,428	228	12	1.80
July 13	8,017	19	3,683	234	192	40,128	209	12	1.65
July Avg.	17,026	27	8,424	358	235	44,885	191	14	2.57
August 16	13,548	16	2,869	240	191	40,492	212	12	2.91
August 15	11,383	20	2,445	224	171	36,252	212	12	2.61
August 14	9,864	27	3,445	302	169	38,363	227	12	2.17
August 13	6,976	28	2,194	159	189	37,422	198	11	1.63
August Avg.	21,132	28	10,601	345	232	44,080	190	15	3.27
September 16	16,016	27	1,483	100	197	42,158	214	11	3.52
September 15	12,855	34	1,184	60	173	38,233	221	11	2.96
September 14	10,063	40	1,429	94	172	36,980	215	11	2.52
September 13	7,126	35	1,385	71	183	36,234	198	10	1.90
September Avg.	22,369	42	2,465	70	222	43,290	195	13	3.87
October 16	16,103	31	381	47	175	37,975	217	10	4.29
October 15	8,855	36	94	6	153	33,048	216	8	3.51
October 14	7,007	28			143	30,888	216	8	2.76
October 13	6,311	35	83	2	151	31,710	210	8	2.61
October Avg.	20,389	46	184	9	181	36,743	203	11	5.00
November 16	6,815	27	0	0	102	23,562	231	7	4.41
November 15	3,134	30	0	0	69	16,560	240	5	3.56
November 14	1,960	24			61	14,762	242	4	3.06
November 13	1,979	40	0	0	65	15,990	246	5	2.74
November Avg.	3,907	37	0	0	86	17,974	209	5	4.03

Totals:

2016	79,301	16,046	1,203
2015	55,869	12,919	998
2014	43,004	13,000	958
2013	44,269	15,706	902
Avg.	104,674	44,518	1,292

Prior year totals are for
the same months

Report Run Date: 4/13/2017

Month	Hard Crab (bushels)	%F	Peeler (lbs)	Soft (lbs)	# Boats Fishing Crab Pot	Crab Pots Set	Pots Fished	Days Worked	Bu/100 Pots
December 2016	233	38	0	0	18	3564	198	2	3.46

**Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Crab Advisory Committee Meeting
April 26, 2017**

#5 Discussion of Licensing/Residency Requirements

Regulation Book

Section 1..... Obtaining a License

Sec. 1(a) Application/Eligibility for License

Commercial licenses, as herein defined, shall only be issued to persons who are at least fourteen (14) years of age at the time of issuance of such license. Any citizen of the States of Maryland or Virginia, who has resided in either or both said states for at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding their application, and desiring to commercially take and catch oysters and or clams; or any citizen of the United States desiring to operate any vessel for the purpose of carrying fee paying persons to catch or attempt to catch fish, crabs, clams or oysters in the waters of the Potomac River, as defined and provided for in the Potomac River Compact of 1958, shall first apply for and obtain a numbered license from the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, or from an officer or agent duly designated by the said Commission to issue same. Each said license shall be good for the licensing year January 1st through December 31st, except gill nets and the licensing for the taking and dealing in oysters, which shall be issued for a licensing year from July 1st through June 30th of each year. No license issued under the authority of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission shall be transferable in any manner.

Compact

Section 4. Licenses -

(b) Licenses for the taking of oysters and clams and the commercial taking of finfish and crabs within the jurisdiction of the Commission shall be granted only to citizens of Maryland or Virginia who have resided in either or both states for at least twelve months immediately preceding the application for the license. Within six months after the effective date of this Compact, the Commission shall adopt a schedule of licenses, the privileges granted thereby, and the fees therefore, which may be modified from time to time in the discretion of the Commission.

**Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Crab Advisory Committee Meeting
April 26, 2017**

#6 Discussion of Commercial Crab Licenses under Corporation/Business Designation & Designated Crabber

Regulation I

Section 3 General Provisions for All Licenses

Sec. 3(a)(1) Person

A person shall mean any individual, party, company, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, firm or association.

Sec. 3(a)(2) Natural Person

A natural person shall mean a single human being.

Sec. 2(d)(1) Crab Pots (see also Sec. 2(d)(3))

A maximum number of crab pot licenses may be established from time to time by the Commission thereby making it a limited entry fishery. For each boat or vessel used in taking or catching crabs with crab pots, as defined in Regulation VII, Section 1(a), a license fee of \$135.00 for up to 300 crab pots, \$200.00 for up to 400 crab pots and a license fee of \$265.00 for up to 500 crab pots shall also be available from 1995 to those persons holding a valid 1994 crab pot license. Providing that thereafter, such persons may continue to renew their license for the number of pots selected in 1995 or for a lesser number of pots as set forth above, but in no instance for more than the number of pots licensed in the preceding year. When a license is surrendered and reissued, it shall be issued for the same or less amount of crab pots. In no instance shall a commercial crab pot license increase in the number of pots associated with the license. **No more than one crab pot license may be issued to any person and/or for any single boat.** The maximum number of pots may not exceed the number specified on the license. Whenever crab pots are being set, fished, or removed the licensee must be aboard the boat or vessel and have his/her license available for inspection by an authorized enforcement officer of the State of Maryland or Virginia or agent of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. Renewal of such license shall be pursuant to Regulation I, Section 1(c).