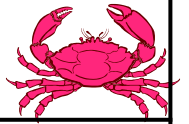


2026 POTOMAC RIVER SPORT CRABBING RESTRICTIONS

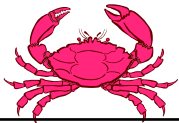
These Limits Apply in the Tidal Potomac River Downstream of the Woodrow Wilson (195) Bridge

Maryland & Virginia Tributaries of the River are Regulated Separately



PRFC SPORT CRABBING LICENSE			PRIVATE LANDOWNER EXEMPTION NO LICENSE REQUIRED – ONE EXEMPTION PER PROPERTY		
<p>Fee: \$30.00 per person - Only one sport crabbing license may be issued to any single person and entitles the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ up to five (5) crab pots and/or, ◆ up to twenty (20) collapsible crab traps and/or, ◆ one (1) trot line less than 1,200 feet and/or, ◆ dip nets and/or; hand lines. <p>Each gear type must be marked with a white buoy. Crab pots must display the "SCL" decals provided with the license. Collapsible crab traps and trot lines must legibly display the letters "SCL" and the license decal number in black letters measuring at least 1" in height.</p> <p>These allowances cannot be combined with non-licensed exemptions</p>			<p>Crab Pots: Two (2) pots fished by the owner and marked with a buoy that is easily visible on the surface and legibly displays the owner's initials in not less than one (1) inch letters; or no more than two (2) hard crab pots attached to a pier. Crab pots may not be more than 100 feet from their shoreline</p> <p>Crab Trot Line: One (1) trot line per boat no longer than 600' and marked with similar buoys on each end.</p> <p>Collapsible Crab Traps: No more than ten (10) traps.</p> <p>Dip Nets and/or Handlines: No gear or time limits when using from the shore or a pier.</p>		
Daily Catch Limits			Daily Catch Limits		
<p>Hard Crabs 5 dozen per person No more than 5 dozen per boat</p>	<p>Soft Crabs 2 dozen per person No more than 2 dozen per boat</p>	<p>Peelers 2 dozen per person No more than 2 dozen per boat</p>	<p>Hard Crabs 3 dozen</p>	<p>Soft Crabs 1 dozen per person</p>	<p>Peelers 1 dozen per person</p>

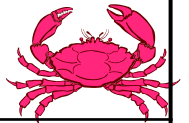
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION (804) 224-7148



2026 POTOMAC RIVER SPORT CRABBING RESTRICTIONS

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SEASON AND SIZE LIMITS – SEE REGULATION VII SECTION 2 FOR MORE SPECIFICS

Hard Crabs (male & immature females)	Soft Crabs	Peelers
April 1 – Nov. 30 5¼" Min. Size Limit	May 1 – Oct. 30 No Min. Size Limit	May 1 – Oct. 30 3 ½" – Min. Size Limit
Time Limit – Regulation VI, Section 4(f)		
No crabbing allowed between sunset and 1 hour before sunrise, except for dip nets & handlines fished from the shore or a pier.		
Cull Ring Requirements		
Each crab pot must have at least two (2) cull rings, one at least 2-5/16" and one at least 2-3/16" inside opening, in opposite exterior vertical panels of the upper chamber.		