

Department of Marine Resources
NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING PROPOSAL

RULE TITLE OR SUBJECT: Chapter 25.45 Draggged Crab as Bycatch

CONCISE SUMMARY:

In accordance with [12 M.R.S.A. §6421, sub§4\(B\)](#), effective May 4, 2009 commercial fishing license holders are allowed to take crab bycatch from otter trawls, taken from the exclusive economic zone, and without holding a lobster and crab license. These proposed regulations would require commercial fishing license holders to obtain a no cost license endorsement for crabs taken by drag and the catch would be limited to 200 lbs of crabs per day, not to exceed 500 lbs per trip.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S.A. §6171 & §6421, sub§4(B)

PUBLIC HEARING: June 22, 2009, 6:00pm, DMR Large Conference Room, 194 McKown Point Road, West Boothbay Harbor

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: July 2, 2009

To ensure consideration, comments must include your name and the organization you represent, if any. Please be aware that any risk of non-delivery associated with submissions by fax or e-mail is on the sender.

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Laurice Churchill (207-633-9584)
Mail Written Comments to: Department of Marine Resources, attn L. Churchill
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FAX: (207) 633-9579
TTY: (207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)
Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Amanda Beckwith, at (207) 287-7578.

Additional information:

These regulations would impact commercial fishing license holders who use an otter trawl in the exclusive economic zone by allowing the take and landings of crab species by-catch. The DMR seeks to implement these measures to insure biological sustainability of these crab species.

If you are unable to attend the hearing persons are encouraged to submit written comments from the receipt or posting of this notice through close of business on the deadline listed.

Proposed rulemaking – see underlined or ~~deleted~~ text below:

Chapter 25 Lobster and Crab

25.45 Draggged Crab as Bycatch

1. License Endorsement

It shall be unlawful to harvest crabs by drag from the EEZ unless the harvester holds a Commercial Fishing – Single license with the Draggged Crab Permit endorsement or a Commercial Fishing – Crew license with the Draggged Crab Permit endorsement*. There will be no additional charge for this permit. A lobster and crab fishing license issued pursuant to [12 M.R.S.A. §6421](#) is not required to obtain this endorsement in accordance with [§6421, sub-§4\(B\)](#).

*DMR License Division telephone (207-624-6550) or for online information select the following link: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/license/index.htm>.

2. Limits

It is unlawful to take, possess or land more than 200 pounds (90.7 kg) of crabs per day, not to exceed 500 pounds (226.8 kg) per trip.