

Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club



Summer 2024

Greetings All Members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and staying hydrated during those hot days. As we come into August and hunting season right around the corner, please take the time to enjoy the remaining warm weather.

As a reminder Tuesday Trap is well under way. If you're not sure about shooting Trap please stop by on a Tuesday evening and see what it is all about. Mike Goddard has worked with many new Trap shooters to help them with Trap skills development (thank you Mike for your time and your generosity for the good of the club). If you're new to the club, it's also a great way to meet fellow members of the club.

Speaking of Trap, we will be holding a "Special Election" to fill that vacancy. As most of us know by now and for those who are unaware, the Clay Target Officer has resigned from the club. A date for the "Special Election" will be announced as soon as possible. In the interim, Rick Deters will be the "Acting Clay Target Officer".

Increasing membership and membership retention are important to the funding and success of the Club. Each year we naturally gain and lose members of the club. This year we are facing the possibility of losing 30+ members. Membership dues are one the largest ways of financing the club. So if you have sponsored someone who may be considering resigning from the club, please reach out to them and ask them to consider staying a member of SCF & Hunting Club. With that being said, I want to be clear, the club is financially sound. There was a time that the club had a waiting list to join. It would be nice to get back to 400 members again.

In closing, please check the club calendar for current and up coming events. If you are new to the club these events are a great way to meet and greet some great members of the club. Thank you.

David J Bathras, SR.
President
Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club, Inc.



Member Only Shoots/Events

Trap Shoot
 Military Rifle & Pistol Shoot - 8/3
 All Gun Shoot - 9/22

Upcoming General Meeting Dates

August 9th
 August 30th
 September 13th
 September 27th



Stoney Creek Fishing & Hunting Club 2024 Calendar of Events

January

General Meetings 12,26
 Air Gun League 3,10,17,24,31
 Board Meeting 8(7pm)
 Bench Rest 28

February

General Meetings 9,23
 Air Gun League 7,14,21,28
 ** Sniper Rifle 25
 **Bench Rest 18
 Hunter Education Workshop 29 (5PM)

March

General Meetings 8,29
 Air Gun League 6,13,20,27
 Pistol League Mtg 14(7pm)
 **Bench Rest 17
 Trap League 17,24,30
 M1/AR Meeting 21(7pm)
 Hunter Education Training 23(8AM)

April

General Meetings 12,26
 **Pistol League 6,21
 Egg Roll 7
 Board Meeting 8(7PM)
 **Bench Rest 14
 Trap League 14,20,28

May

General Meetings 10,31
 **Pistol League 4,18
 Trap League 4,11,19,26
 Flea Market 5
 Air Gun Banquet 18 (6pm)
 **Bench Rest 19
 **Lever Action Shoot 26

June

General Meetings 14,28
 Trap League 1
 **Pistol League 2,15,30
 **Bench Rest M/U 30
 Trap League Banquet 23(6pm)
 **.22 Rifle Shoot 9
 Hunter Safety 17,20,22
 **Double-T Night 15
 **Blk Pwdr Pistol 13,19,27

July

General Meetings 12,26
 **Pistol Shoot 7
 Board Meeting 8(7PM)
 **Pistol League 14,28
 **Blk Pwdr Pistol 11,18,25

August

General Meetings 9,30
****Trap Shoot 3**
****Military Rifle & Pistol Shoot 3**
 Hunter Qual 4,18,31
 **Pistol League 10,24
 Trap League 11,18,24,31
 Hunter Safety 12,15,17
 Internet H. Safety 25
 **Blk Pwdr Pistol 1,8,14,22,29

September

General Meetings 13,27
 Hunter Qual 1
 Trap League 7,15,21,29
 **Pistol League 8
 Internet H. Safety 14
 M1/AR Banquet 14(6pm)
 **All Gun Shoot 22
 Pistol Banquet 28(5pm)

October

General Meetings 11
 Internet H. Safety 5
 Trap League 6,12,20
 Board Meeting 7(7PM)
****Side-X-Side and 13**
20-Gauge Trap Shoot
****Rifle Shoot 13**

November

General Meetings 8
 Trap League Banquet 2 (6pm)
 Flea Market 3
 Calendar Meeting 13 (7pm)
 Bench Rest Meeting 20 (7pm)

December

General Meetings 13
 Air Gun League Mtg 18(7pm)
 Merry Christmas 25

**** Members Only Shoot -
 registration 10AM to 2PM**

Hunter Qual 9AM to 1PM

TRAP EVERY TUESDAY @ 5PM
WEB SITE INFO - www.scfclub.org

EVENTS LINE 410-255-2119

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

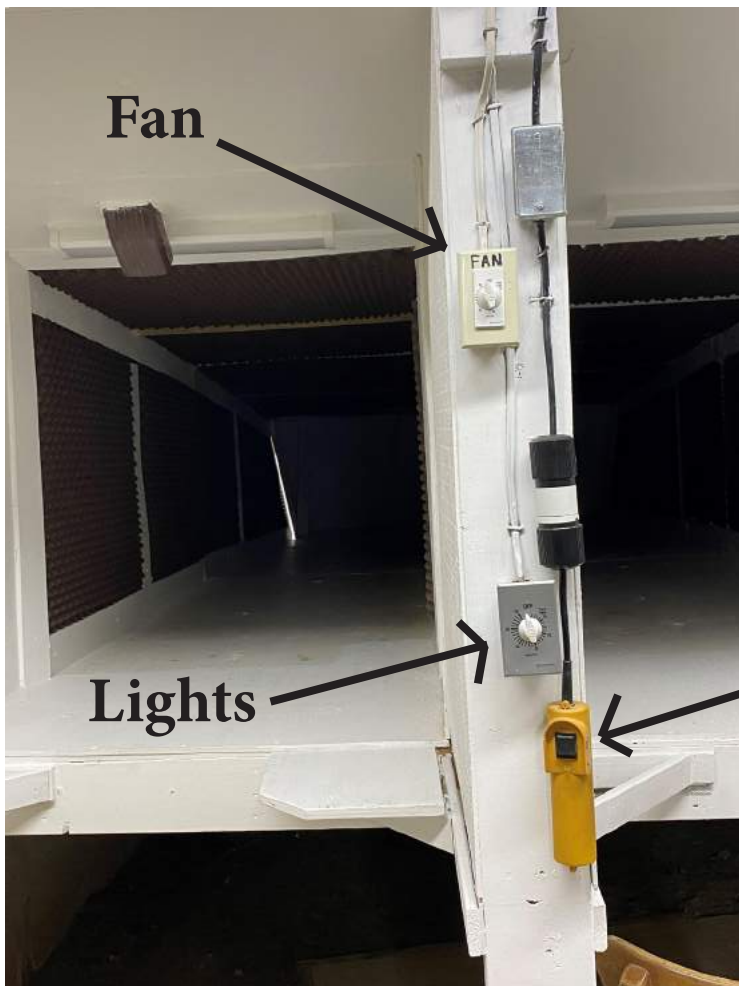
New Range Rules:

All Ranges:

Please turn on the exhaust fans that have been installed on each lane during use. **A leaf blower is also located at the 50 yard range to clear out powder.**

25 & 50 yard Ranges:

The eyebrows have been removed. The outer doors must be opened all the way. The old eyebrow controllers now open and shut the outer doors.



**100 yds+ Eyebrow, Adjust like normal
25-50 yds - Outer Door, open all the way**

Training & Academics Committee

We are looking to grow this committee. If you need hours this is perfect. Help plan out events and classes, no need to teach! We work to schedule the club house, see what exactly is needed to host the class, advertise, and just host the event.

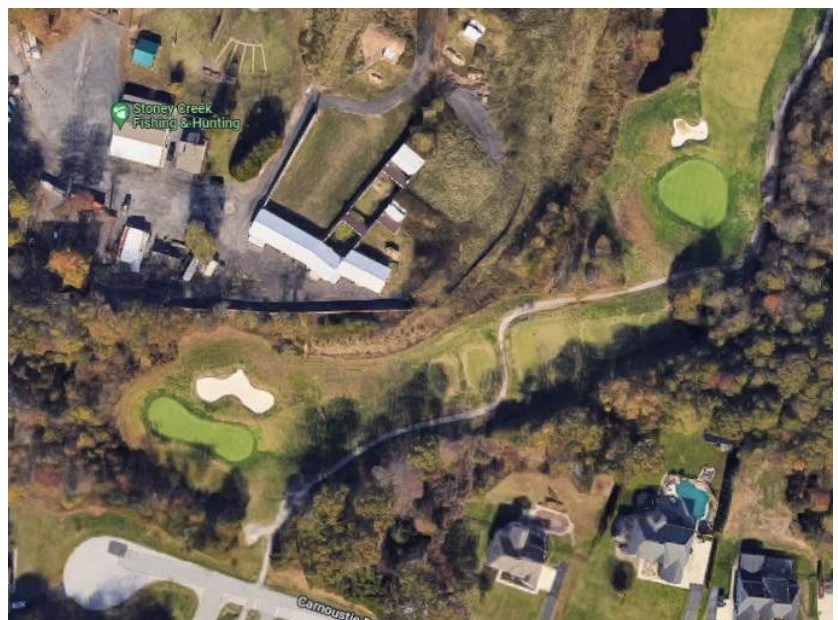
You all asked for this, now we need help getting it going.



PARKING ALERT

For those of you that don't know, our range parking area is directly next to a hole at the golf course. It is important to know where you park when visiting the range.

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting club is not responsible for your vehicle in the parking lot. The Golf Course is not responsible for your car getting hit.





Military Rifle & Pistol Club Shoot

Guns may be any U.S. or foreign issue military rifle or pistol in original, as issued condition or clone. Examples AR15 M1A's, NM type guns Mauser's, 1911's, Luger's , Webley's etc. but must be in original cartridge.

A taller front sight may be installed on pistol / revolver or rifle .

Slings are allowed, but must be used in a 'Hasty Sling' Manner.

No shooting aids (coats, gloves (exception M1, M1a and M1 carbine)). Recoil pads, slip on or shoulder worn pads may be used.

There are two classes, defined as open /iron sights, and scoped, to include Red Dots.

To receive high overall the shooter must shoot both rifle and pistol in same class, i.e. open sight rifle, open sight pistol OR scoped rifle and scoped pistol class.

Shooter may choose to shoot in only one category (Rifle or Pistol) but will be ineligible for high overall.

COURSE OF FIRE

Rifle – Offhand 50 yards – 10 rounds at 10 clay birds.

Kneeling 100 yards = 5 rounds at SR21 Target

Sitting – 150 yards – 5 rounds at a MR52 Target

Prone – 200 yards – 5 rounds at a MR52 Target

PISTOL - Offhand 25 yards – 14 rounds at B8 Target.





All Gun Club Shoot

Pistol

All shots taken in offhand (standing) position. No support. Leaning against booth or use of anything other than shooters body to help steady firearm will disqualify shooter.

Rifle

20 shots with any MD legal deer rifle at paper targets. No shooting equipment other than scopes and slings (used as defined under Club Shoot Rules).

7 shots - offhand (standing) position at 100 yards on SR-21 target.

No support other than sling. Leaning against booth to help steady firearm will disqualify shooter.

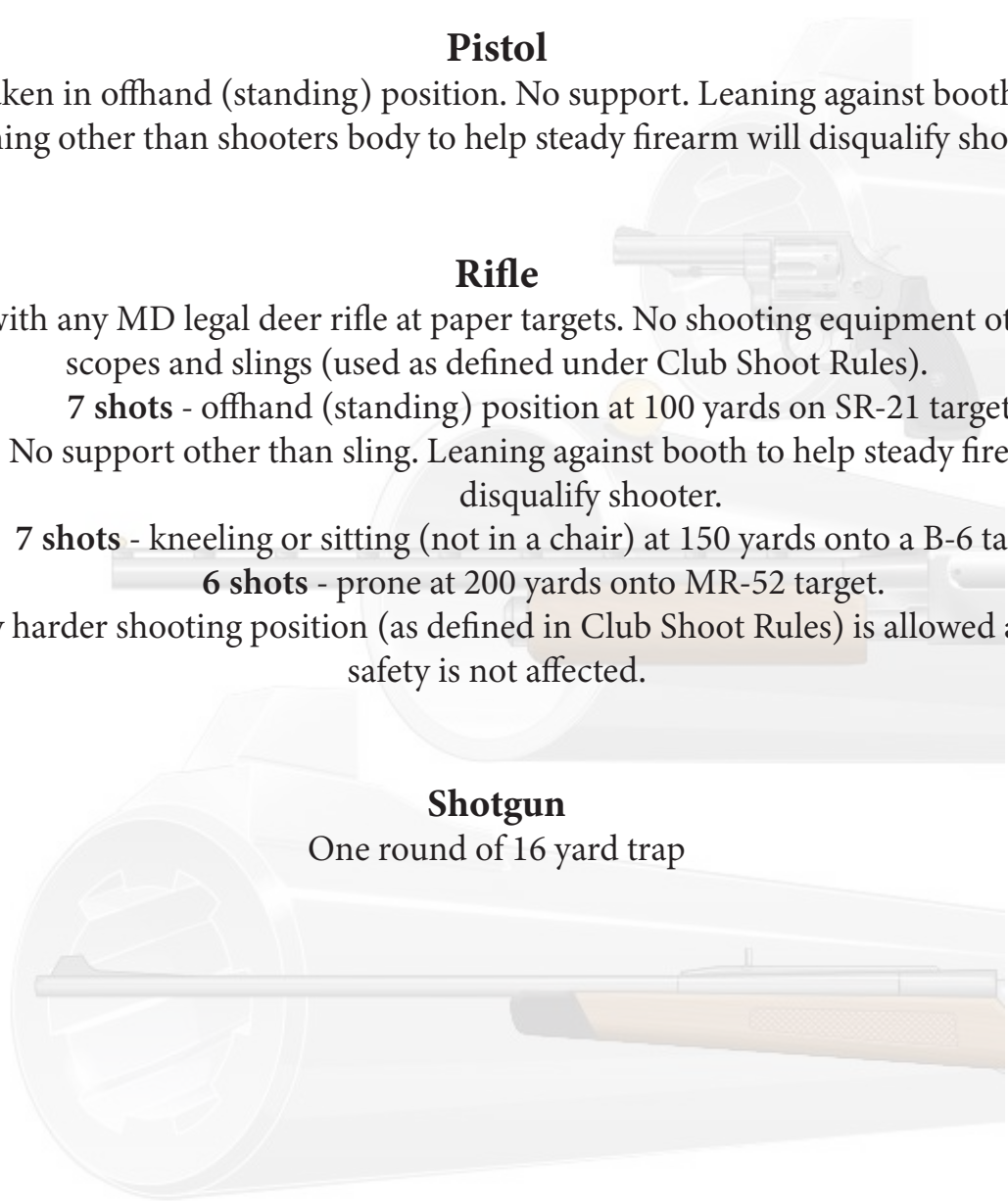
7 shots - kneeling or sitting (not in a chair) at 150 yards onto a B-6 target.

6 shots - prone at 200 yards onto MR-52 target.

Any harder shooting position (as defined in Club Shoot Rules) is allowed as long as safety is not affected.

Shotgun

One round of 16 yard trap



At Another Key Juncture for Blue Crabs, Scientists Look Back at Two Decades of Management

In the late 2000s, the outlook for blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay was grim.

Known for its ups and downs, the blue crab harvest was going through a long stretch of almost all downs. The crab population steeply declined after 1997 and remained at record low harvests for a decade. The region lost nearly 4,500 crab-related jobs between 1998 and 2006.

Determined to save the crabbing industry—the most profitable fishery in the Bay—and increase the population of blue crabs, officials from Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission took action, enacting a spate of bold regulations that changed the way the species was managed.

In the next few years, blue crabs bounced back. Lynn Fegley, the director of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services, credits that comeback to the close collaboration between fisheries managers across state lines, and the watermen who took on sacrifices for the future of the fishery.

“It was a bad moment for crabs, but the governors, the states, the watermen, and the crabbing community got together, we all worked together and we turned the needle,” Fegley said.

Now in the shadow of those management decisions from two decades ago, the blue crab fishery today has seen a more stable crab population and harvest. Yet scientists say this moment is another important juncture for blue crabs and their future in the Bay.

Juvenile recruitment—the abundance of young crabs—has been low for five years in a row, and the overall population dipped in 2022. In part to address these and other lingering questions, a new blue crab stock assessment is in the works to assess the population of blue crabs. It’s the first since 2011, which came on the heels of significant management changes at that time.

For Maryland Department of Natural Resources fisheries managers, the new assessment is a chance to look back at the last assessment and related management decisions—both as a model for collaborative management and a foundation to continue to build from.

“The 2011 stock assessment and the management decisions made just prior to that in 2008, that was based on the best data we had then, and that was how we saw the population bounce back. Blue crabs responded really well to that management,” Mandy Bromilow, Maryland DNR’s blue crab program manager, said. “The new assessment is going to build on that framework and bring in the best models, data and science we have now.”

A paradigm shift

The geography and the habitats of the Chesapeake Bay have made it a fitting home for blue crabs. Beds of sea grasses provide foraging and nursery grounds for crabs throughout the Bay, and every year female crabs, or sooks, venture to the saltier waters of the mouth of the Chesapeake to spawn. Young crabs start their lives in planktonic larval form, adrift in the coastal Atlantic Ocean, only to return after many molts.

At Another Key Juncture for Blue Crabs, Scientists Look Back at Two Decades of Management - Continued

These arthropods have short lifespans, subject to the whims of temperatures, currents and other environmental factors. As a result, the crab fishery has always fluctuated, and crabbers grew accustomed to cycles of higher and lower harvests. Even with these boom and bust periods, the fishery was able to adapt, and regulations on crabbing were mostly limited to restrictions on gear and time.

The downward cycle that started in 1998 was unprecedented for the fishery. The population fell by 63% percent between 1990 and 2008. Even with lower harvests than earlier years, the science from fisheries biologists suggested that the blue crabs were being overharvested, a fateful combination that stopped the population from recovering.

In a 2007 document, Fegley — then Maryland DNR's blue crab project manager and chair of the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee — wrote: “We have not experienced this particular stock status of low adults, low recruitment and high exploitation rates within our recorded history of the crab fishery.”

In 2007, the winter dredge survey, Maryland and Virginia's annual estimate of the total blue crab population in the Bay, turned up a historic low at the time of only 251 million crabs. A year later, the U.S. Department of Commerce would issue a disaster declaration for the fishery.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission agreed to implement regulations that would result in a 34% reduction in the harvest rate of female blue crabs.

As is the case with many animals, females are a limiting factor for reproduction in blue crabs. Males can mate with multiple females, and a relatively lower male population can still support a healthy recruitment year.

In a quirk of their biology, female blue crabs only have one opportunity to mate, during their last molt. They can spawn multiple times from a single pairing, which means that mature female blue crabs are essentially always pregnant, and each one caught is a potential spawner.

“We wanted to get those female crabs safe passage into Virginia where they spawn,” Fegley said this June.

In 2008, Bay-wide regulatory changes started to take effect. Maryland shortened the crabbing season, implemented female bushel limits, and limited the number of participants in the culturally and economically important fall sook run, where the fishery targets pre-spawn females on their southward migration.

Virginia shortened its season for female crabs and closed its winter dredge fishery, a technique previously banned in Maryland where a toothed dredge drags across the bottom to pull up dormant crabs. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission suggested the practice cut up and destroyed a significant amount of crabs targeted, and in Virginia it was used on populations of pre-spawn female crabs.

VMRC Commissioner Steven Bowman said at the time the ban and additional regulations were necessary “to prevent a potential collapse” of the population of blue crabs, the Associated Press reported.

Because blue crabs, particularly females, move through the entire Bay over the course of their life cycle, Bay-wide coordination of management is critical to ensure adequate protections of the stock, Fegley said. Prior to 2008, Maryland and Virginia tended to manage independently and the respective management programs were not protective enough for the migrating female component of the stock.



At Another Key Juncture for Blue Crabs, Scientists Look Back at Two Decades of Management - Continued

Fegley described the collaboration between Maryland and Virginia that began in 2008 as critical to successfully bringing the crabs back.

“It’s all one resource. It’s one population spread across two states,” she said. “The fact that everybody went together the way that they did—that’s what did it.”

It took time to adjust the regulations, but the states worked with the input of crabbers, Fegley said. The new regulations were difficult sacrifices for the crabbing community, but they made the long-term survival of the fishery possible.

In 2011, a team of researchers led by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science released a stock assessment that laid out new benchmarks for the blue crab population. The assessment established female-specific reference points for sustainable yield.

After a few years of the new management strategy, the states started to see results. In 2012, the blue crab population hit a 19-year high of 764 million. Crabs were abundant again—and scientists attributed the return to the changes in the management of the fishery.

“It’s one of the most successful fishery stock rebuilding programs ever, anywhere,” Douglas Domenech, Virginia’s then-secretary of natural resources, said in 2012.

Lingering questions

The management strategy that brought the Chesapeake’s blue crabs back from the brink has largely remained the same since that time, with some updated reference points and minor adjustments to harvest limits based on results of the annual winter survey.

But there have been some warning signs that suggest additional changes might become necessary. In 2022, the winter dredge survey estimated only 227 million crabs in the Bay, even fewer than 2007’s historic low. Then, the 2024 survey marked the fifth consecutive year of below-average recruitment.

These results inspired the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee to explore the pursuit of another benchmark stock assessment. Preliminary data analysis begins this summer, and the assessment is set to be completed and published in March 2026.

The new stock assessment will revisit assumptions of the 2011 assessment and bring new modeling techniques to the data. It will also consider factors that have changed in recent years, such as environmental influences and predation by blue catfish.



At Another Key Juncture for Blue Crabs, Scientists Look Back at Two Decades of Management - Continued

“The science has gotten better,” Mike Luisi, DNR Fishing and Boating Services Tidal and Coastal Management and Science Branch director. “It leads to more precision in how we manage.”

One consideration will be whether male-specific benchmarks should be established in addition to the female benchmarks. Though female blue crabs are the greater limiting factor for reproduction, Bromilow said it’s possible there are areas with so few males that some females don’t have a chance to mate during their limited window.

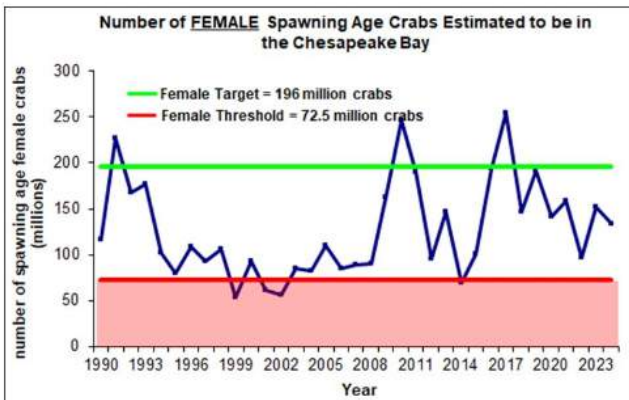
Though some have suggested the annual winter dredge survey could be underestimating juveniles, Fegley said the juveniles measured by the survey have been a good predictor of the upcoming harvest, which suggests the survey estimates are an accurate representation of the number of young crabs.

“Juvenile abundance estimates are still the best indicator of population health that we have,” said Glenn Davis, a DNR fisheries biologist who conducts data analysis on blue crabs. “So we need to look at what has changed since 2009 to 2016. Why are we not getting the same results despite robust numbers of over-wintering females?”

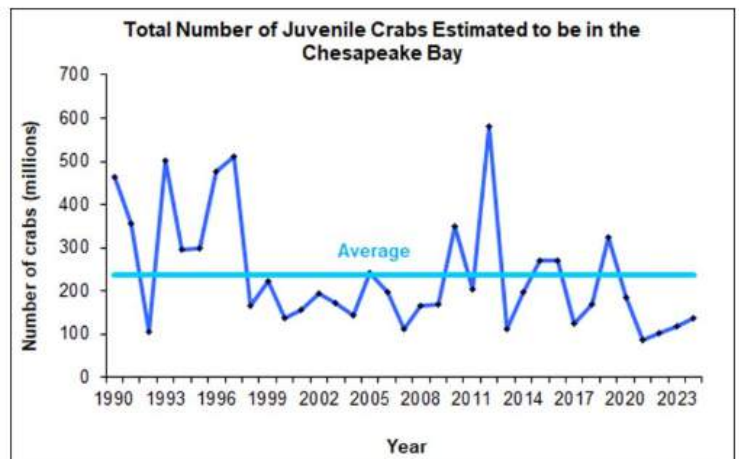
Luisi said the 2011 stock assessment was essential to the proceeding years of management, and the new assessment will build on the previous one and will similarly help to guide the upcoming years of management.

“Going by the science put crabs back on track in the 2010s,” he said. “Now we need to look to the science again to make sure we’re effectively managing blue crabs for a sustainable fishery.”

By Joe Zimmermann, science writer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Since establishing female-specific benchmarks, the population of female blue crabs has increased.
DNR



Despite the stable population of female adult crabs, the population of juveniles has been below average for five consecutive years. DNR

Virginia scientists investigate mass oyster die-offs

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science released a new report in June on the unexplained massive die-offs at oyster farms. The report is from a two-day workshop in January. Over 25 oyster aquaculture experts discussed their latest studies on the Sudden Unusual Mortality Syndrome, or SUMS.

The syndrome was first reported in 2012. It affects farmed oysters during peak reproduction time between May and early July. According to VIMS, the mortality exceeds 70% at aquaculture locations across the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. But no one knows why.

The report ruled out common oyster diseases like Dermo and MSX as the sole or prominent culprit. Instead, researchers theorize that stressors from the environment and aquaculture cultivation methods play a large role.

One theory that emerged from the workshop focused on the oyster genetics. Triploid oysters have three chromosomes and can't reproduce. Oyster farmers like to raise them because all the bivalves' energy goes toward growth. So, some researchers from the workshop received a grant to compare how triploid and non-triploid oysters do under multiple stressors.

Researchers at the workshop also explored how salinity, water temperature and the presence of algae during cultivation affected oyster species differently.

In the future, scientists hope to understand these periods of mass deaths and analyze the genetics of oysters that survived. The group also suggested breeding oysters for general resilience instead of resistance to just one stressor.

The group agreed that the aquaculture industry and research community must collaborate and communicate more to solve the problem. They hope to share data on the occurrence of SUMS at oyster farms across the coast, genetic samples and more. They also want to create an emergency response network.

The syndrome does not appear to pose any risk to those buying or consuming oysters.

By Lauren Hines-Acosta, Bay Journal



Applications Now Open for 2024 Maryland Black Bear Hunt Lottery

Hunters can now enter the lottery selection process for the annual six-day black bear hunt in Western Maryland. The cost to [enter the lottery](#) is \$15 and applications can be purchased from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) now through August 31.

The 2024 bear hunt will take place Oct 21-26 in Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington counties. The bear hunt is an important part of managing Maryland's expanding black bear population.

This year, 950 bear harvest permits will be issued through the lottery selection process. Hunters who have entered multiple years in a row receive "preference points," one additional entry for each consecutive year they have applied. Anyone who is not seeking a permit this year but may in the future can purchase a preference point for \$15 – they will not be entered in the 2024 lottery, but will not lose their advantage for next year.

Lottery entries and preference points may be purchased now through August 31 through the [DNR online licensing website](#), a [license agent](#), or by calling 866-344-8889 between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

After the lottery deadline closes, hunters will be able to check the [DNR black bear hunt website](#) on September 4, 2024 to see if their DNRid was selected.





Record \$21.5 Million in Maryland Waterway Improvement Fund Awards go to Public Boating Access, Navigable Waterways, and Safety

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will provide \$21.5 million in Waterway Improvement Fund allocations to communities and projects throughout Maryland in Fiscal Year 2025, which began July 1.

The funds will support new and improved public boating access facilities, dredging of navigable public waterways; emergency vessels and equipment for local first responders; and other important infrastructure and initiatives.

“Our waterways are a major component of Maryland’s economic success and cultural identity, and keeping them accessible, safe, and navigable are key priorities,” said Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. “The Waterway Improvement Fund, funded by Maryland’s boating public and distributed in close partnership with our waterfront communities, has been a critical component in supporting these activities for decades.”

The Waterway Improvement Fund is primarily derived from the one-time 5% excise tax when a boat is purchased and titled in the state, as well as a small portion of the state gas tax. It has been used to construct and maintain more than 400 public boating facilities, 250 public navigational channels, and to acquire vessels. Applications are reviewed and projects are selected based on local government and state priorities, which are evaluated to determine the benefit to the general boating public. Fiscal Year 2025 applications totaled more than \$80 million in Waterway Improvement Fund requests.

The Department of Natural Resources is now accepting Waterway Improvement Fund applications for the next fiscal year through the department’s online Grants Gateway.

Anne Arundel County

City of Annapolis, City Dock

Power pedestal upgrade

\$250,000

City of Annapolis, Fourth Street Public Boating Access

Improvements

\$175,000

City of Annapolis, Shipwright Street End, Public Boating Access

Improvements

\$175,000

Broadwater Creek

Dredging

\$457,000

Broadwater Creek

Beneficial use dredged material placement, site one structures

\$450,000

Carrs Creek

Dredging

\$200,000

Parker Creek

Dredging

\$277,500

Club Officers

President

David Bathras, Sr

Vice President

Bobby Dill

Secretary

Joseph Wiley

Treasurer

Kevin Burket

Financial Secretary

Rob Clay, Sr.

Sergeant At Arms

Ed Panowicz

Chief Range Officer

Lee Moran

Clay Target Officer

Rick Deters - Acting

Kitchen Officer

Melissa Basil

Board of Directors

Club President

Club Vice President

Ray Ten Kate

Ted Mathison

Chris Colvin

Rob Clay, Sr

George McCauley

Joseph Wiley

Kevin Burket

Karl Sovik

John Grainger



Contact Stephen Moody
for club license plate details

Tuesday Night Trap

Trap is open for the season!
Great way to meet people and earn
hours.

Hello Everyone,

Fall is coming up fast. Send me your photos of
your upcoming hunts or end of summer fishing
trips for the newsletters.

Joe Wiley

Membership

Michael Basil

Public Relations

Robert Larsen

Newsletter Editor

Joseph Wiley

