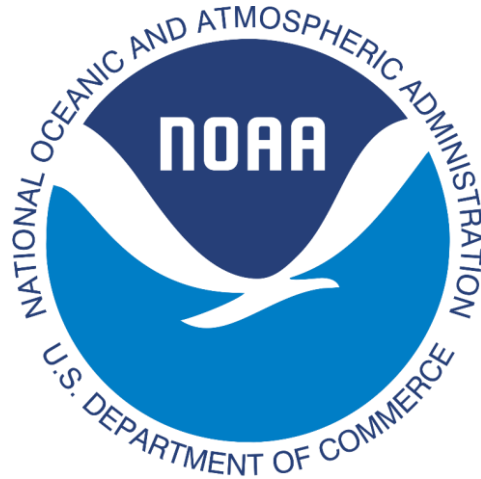


# Estimating the Impact of Recreational Crabbing in Georgia

*Coastal Georgia Colloquium*  
GCRC  
*October 20, 2022*



# Acknowledgements



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# Recreational Crabbing in Georgia



# Project Goals

1. Assess the impact of Georgia's recreational blue crab fishery:
  - Effort and catch
  - Direct and indirect economic impacts from crabbing trip expenditures,
  - Opinion and knowledge of crabbing regulations.
2. Develop outreach resources to educate recreational crabbers on the importance of conserving Georgia's blue crab fishery





# Survey Tools

- **Online Survey-Qualtrics**
  - SIP permit holders: 2013-2018
  - 18 questions
    - Effort
    - Catch
    - Economic Expenditures
    - Demographics
- **Dock Intercept Surveys**
  - Same questions as online survey + travel distance, opinion and regulation knowledge questions

**2018-2019 CIG Recreational Blue Crab Dock Intercept Survey**

Date:	Interview Time:	Interview Number:
Location:		County:
Interviewer:		

Confidentiality Statement:  
 This study is being conducted by the University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia's Sea Grant Program in collaboration with the Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Your participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential.

- Not counting today, have you participated in recreational crabbing in Georgia within the last 5 years?
  - Yes
  - No *If "no," have participant answer number 2, and then exit the survey.*
- What is the zip code of your primary residence?
- On average, how many days in a given year do you participate in recreational crabbing in Georgia?
- Where do you typically go recreational crabbing?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Private dock	<input type="checkbox"/> Beach or bank
<input type="checkbox"/> Public dock/pier	<input type="checkbox"/> Boat
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
- What is the primary gear type that you use for recreational crabbing?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Crab pot* <small>commercial style</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand line and dip net
<input type="checkbox"/> Collapsible trap	<input type="checkbox"/> Seine net
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring net	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand line only	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dip net only	

*(If participant answers (crab pot\*), go to number 6. (If other choices, go to number 7)*
- \*How many days a week do you typically check your crab pots?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 7 days
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	
- On average, how many blue crabs do you catch and **RELEASE** during a typical day of recreational crabbing?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-45
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-50
<input type="checkbox"/> 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
- On average, how many blue crabs do you catch and **KEEP** during a typical day of recreational crabbing?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-45
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 46-50
<input type="checkbox"/> 11-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
- How many days, on average, make up a typical recreational crabbing trip for you?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 days
- How many hours, on average, do you spend recreational crabbing\* during a typical day?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than an hour	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-9 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 10 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6 hours	

\*For participants who set crab pots from a boat, "crabbing" includes boat time to and from their crabbing location.

Show crabber separate sheet with answer choices, and have him/her provide the appropriate letter choice for each question.

- For the following, please provide your best estimate if applicable: On AVERAGE....
  - How much do you spend on crabbing gear annually? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How much do you spend on bait per trip? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How much do you spend on ice per trip? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How much do you spend of fuel per trip? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How much do you spend on food per trip? \_\_\_\_\_
  - How much do you spend on lodging per trip? \_\_\_\_\_

1

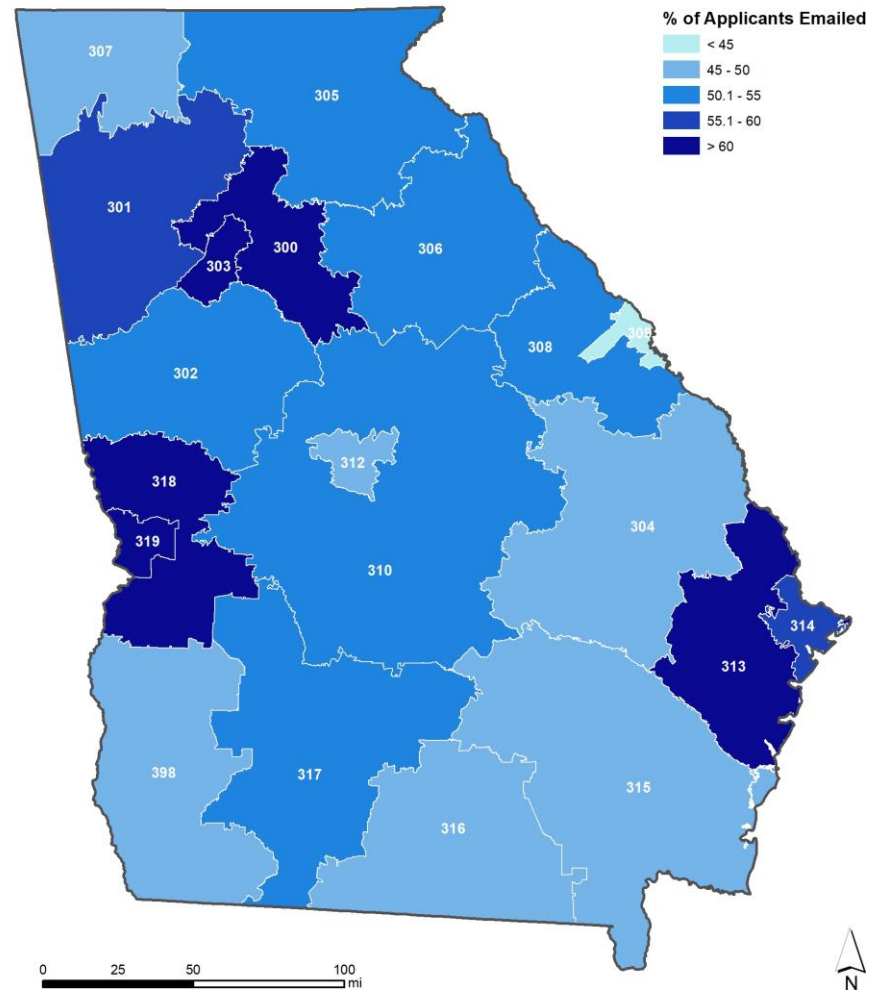


# Online Surveys

- 397,055 emails provided
- 7,641 responses
- **36.1%** participated in recreational crabbing in Georgia within the last 5 years.

## Participant Demographics

- 90% white
- 78% male
- 78.9% 42-75 years old



*Total number of emails sent to each 3-digit zip code region is directly proportional to total overall representation in records database (<0.00% difference)*



# Dock Intercept Surveys



## 142 Surveys

90% of respondents indicated they had participated in recreational crabbing in Georgia within the last 5 years. \*

63% male

64% white

Fairly even age distribution



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# Recreational Crabbing Activity Summaries

## ONLINE SURVEYS

Most popular gear types: **1) crab pots**,  
2) hand line/dip nets and 3) ring nets.

**1 to 3 hours:** most frequent amount of time  
spent crabbing during a typical day

**10.15** average number of days spent  
crabbing during a given year.

**21.35** average number of years spent  
recreational crabbing in Georgia

**Private docks & public docks/piers**, and  
boats most frequent crabbing locations

## DOCK INTERCEPT SURVEYS

Most popular gear types: **1) ring nets** , 2) crab  
pots, and 3) collapsible traps.

**1 to 3 hours/ 4-6 hours:** most frequent  
amount of time spent crabbing during a  
typical day

**34.4** average number of days spent crabbing  
during a given year.

**17.85** average number of years spent  
recreational crabbing in Georgia

**Public docks/piers**, private docks, and bridges  
most frequent crabbing locations

**Chatham and Glynn Counties:** most frequent counties reported for crabbing

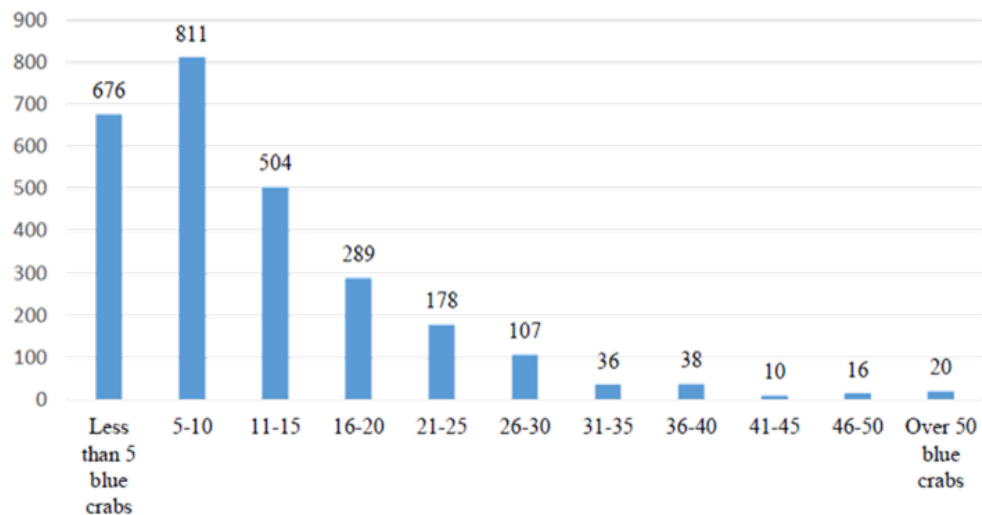
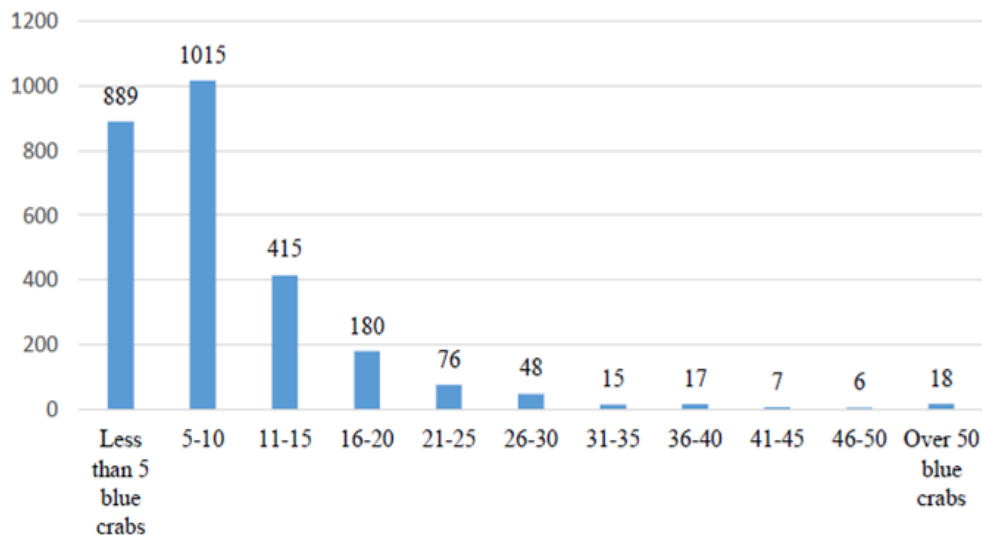




# Self-Reported Catch (Online Survey)

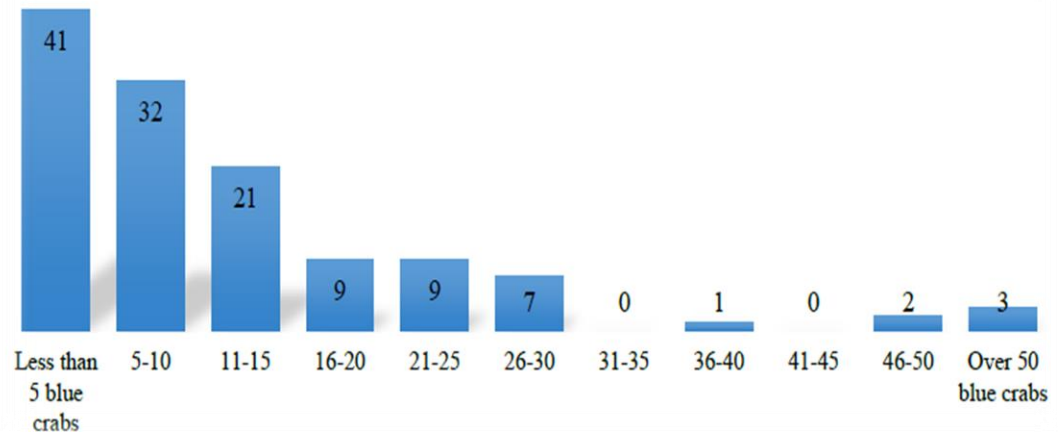
**71%** of respondents catch and RELEASE **10 or fewer crabs** during a typical trip.

**55%** of respondents catch and KEEP **10 or fewer crabs** during a typical trip.

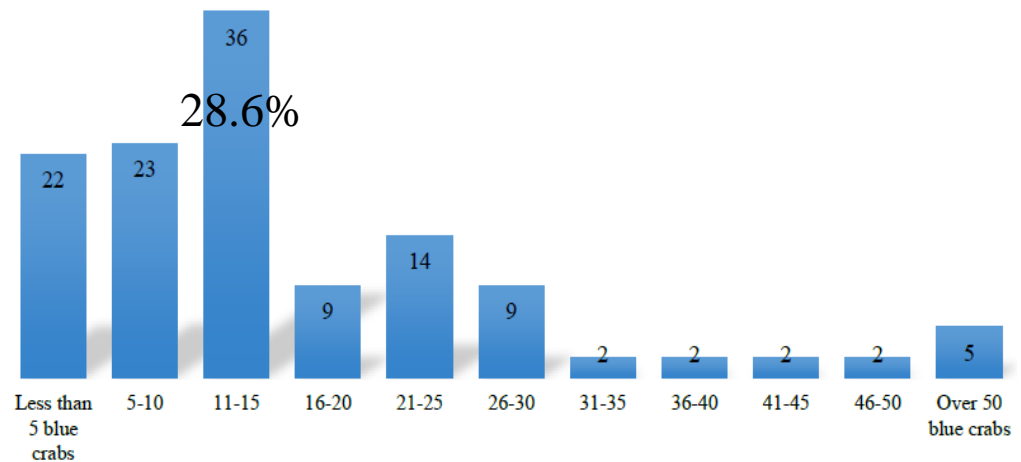


# Self-Reported Catch (*Dock Intercept*)

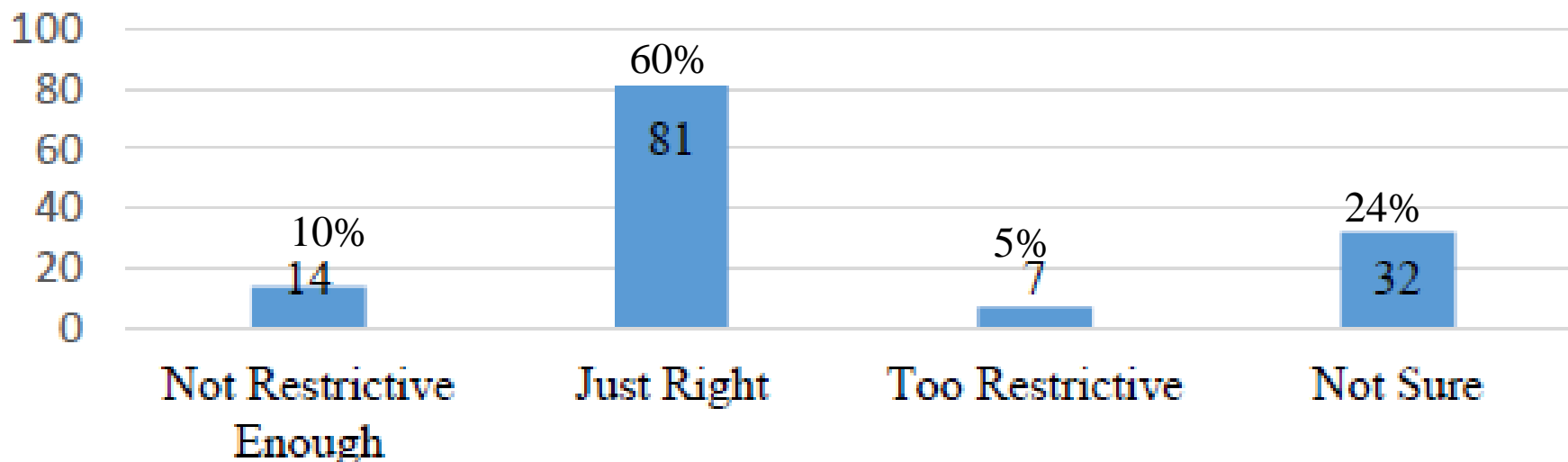
**58.4%** of respondents catch and RELEASE **10 or fewer crabs** during a typical trip.



**36%** of respondents catch and KEEP **10 or fewer crabs** during a typical trip.



# Opinion of Recreational Blue Crab Regulations



**60%** of dock intercept respondents indicated the Georgia's recreational blue crab regulations were ***"just right."*** (n=134)

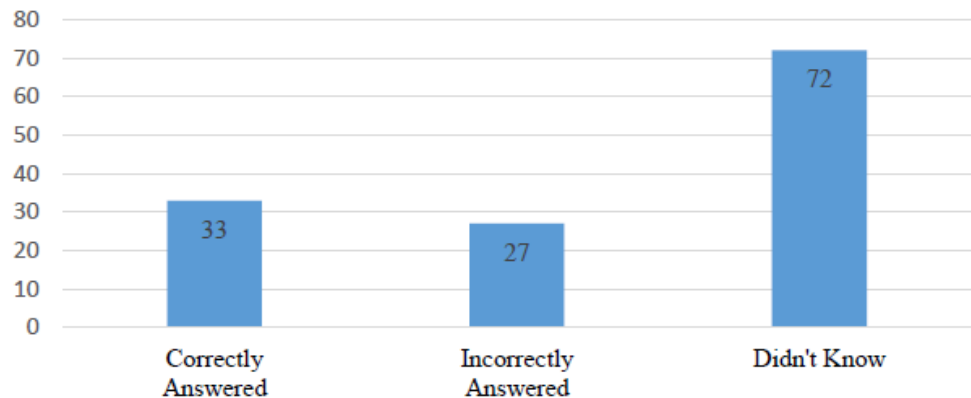
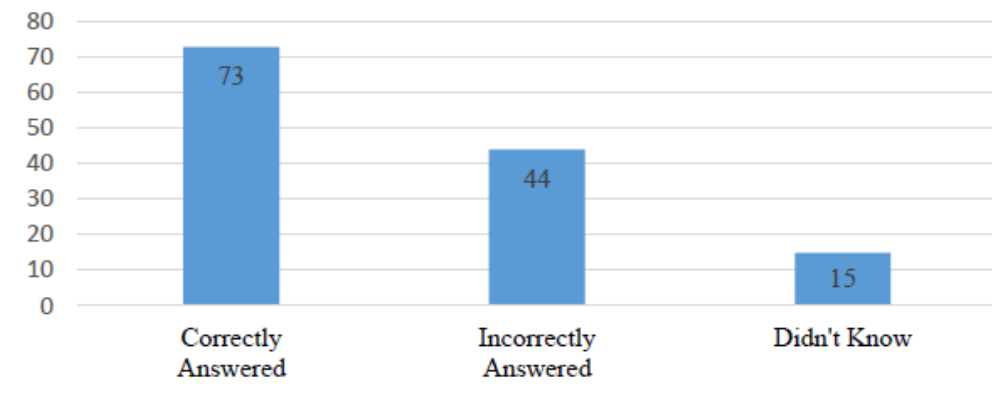




# Knowledge of Recreational Crabbing Regulations

**55%** of respondents correctly answered that the minimum size limit of a blue crab, other than a peeler or a mature adult female, that can be legally harvested is 5 inches.

**25%** of respondents correctly answered that the recreational daily bag limit is a bushel.



# Legal to Harvest?



# Estimated Economic Impact of Recreational Crabbing in Georgia



Employment

**407**

Income

**\$11.7 million**

Total Sales Impact

**\$17.5 million**

*Source: UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government/IMPLAN*



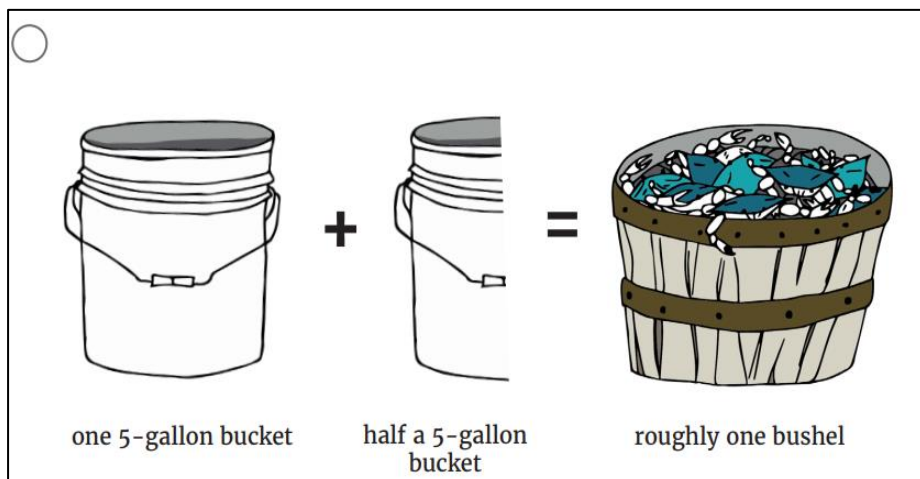
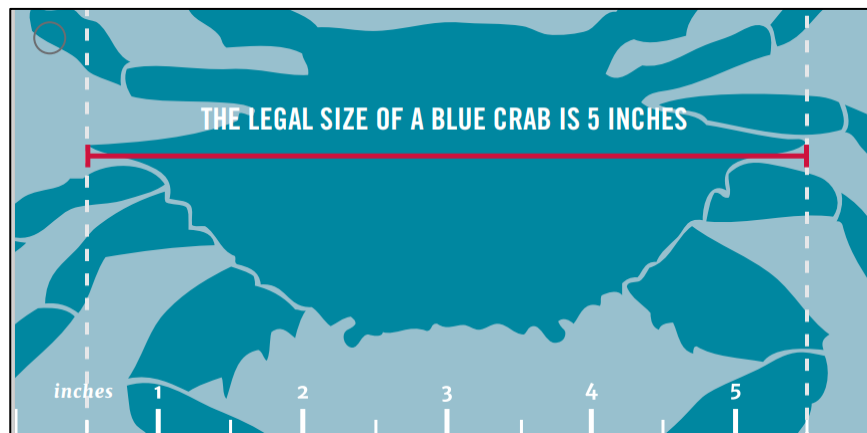
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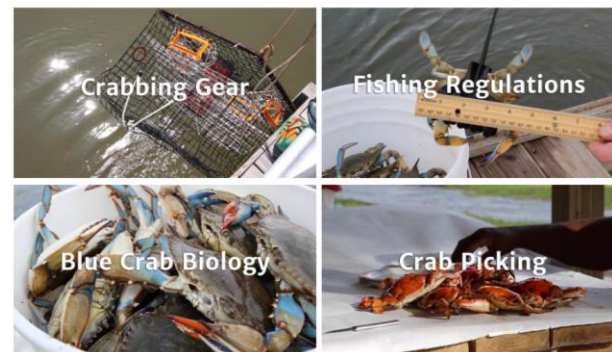


# Recreational Crabbing Outreach Resources



## Blue Crabbing Guideline Videos

Click the links below to watch four educational videos on recreational blue crabbing topics: crabbing gear, fishing regulations, blue crab biology and crab picking.



<https://gacoast.uga.edu/fishing-resources/>



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# Thank You!

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