Estimating the Impact of Recreational Crabbing in Georgia

Coastal Georgia Colloquium
GCRC
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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
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
### Recreational Crabbing Activity Summaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ONLINE SURVEYS</th>
<th>DOCK INTERCEPT SURVEYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most popular gear types:</strong> 1) <strong>crab pots</strong>, 2) hand line/dip nets and 3) ring nets.</td>
<td><strong>Most popular gear types:</strong> 1) <strong>ring nets</strong>, 2) crab pots, and 3) collapsible traps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 to 3 hours:</strong> most frequent amount of time spent crabbing during a typical day</td>
<td><strong>1 to 3 hours/ 4-6 hours:</strong> most frequent amount of time spent crabbing during a typical day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10.15</strong> average number of days spent crabbing during a given year.</td>
<td><strong>34.4</strong> average number of days spent crabbing during a given year.</td>
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<td><strong>21.35</strong> average number of years spent recreational crabbing in Georgia</td>
<td><strong>17.85</strong> average number of years spent recreational crabbing in Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private docks &amp; public docks/piers</strong>, and boats most frequent crabbing locations</td>
<td><strong>Public docks/piers</strong>, private docks, and bridges most frequent crabbing locations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$11.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sales Impact</td>
<td>$17.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government/IMPLAN
Recreational Crabbing Outreach Resources

THE LEGAL SIZE OF A BLUE CRAB IS 5 INCHES

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.

- Crabbing Gear
- Fishing Regulations
- Blue Crab Biology
- Crab Picking

one 5-gallon bucket + half a 5-gallon bucket = roughly one bushel

https://gacoast.uga.edu/fishing-resources/
Thank You!

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