Updates to Blue Crab Regulations

Permanent Ban on Harvest of Immature Female Blue Crabs

- No commercial harvest of immature females, regardless of size.
- May keep incidental take of no more than 2% of total number of crabs possessed.
- Exemption for crabs in pre-molt stage for processing as softshell; must be in peeler/buster box.

Crab Trap Escape Rings Requirement

- Each crab trap must have at least three escape rings, 2 3/8\textsuperscript{th} inches in inside diameter (not including ring material).
- At least two must be in the upper chamber flush, or even with, the baffle.
- One ring must be in the lower chamber, no greater than one mesh length from the trap floor.
- **Beginning July 1, 2022, all escape rings shall be located no greater than one mesh length from the corners.**