



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
POST OFFICE BOX 189
DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL 36528
TEL (251) 861-2882
FAX (251) 861-8741
e-mail: amrddi@gulftel.com

JAN 2010

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR
M. BARNETT LAWLEY
COMMISSIONER

R. VERNON MINTON, DIRECTOR
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION



THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS. THIS EXPLANATION OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS CORRECT AS OF THE DATE SPECIFIED. BEFORE TAKING PART IN THIS FISHERY PLEASE CALL 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMANS RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME

SUMMARY OF ALABAMA RECREATIONAL BLUE CRAB LAWS AND REGULATIONS

****Recreational Crabbing...Saltwater Fishing License Required...(5 traps maximum)****

1. **Individuals can use up to, but not more than, five (5) crab traps for taking crabs for personal, noncommercial purposes but must purchase a resident or non-resident annual or 7-day trip Saltwater Fishing License.**
2. **No person, shall take, catch, or possess blue crabs that measure less than five inches (5") carapace width as measured from the tip of one lateral spine to tip of the opposite lateral spine.**
3. **Crabs taken by licensed recreational shrimp boats in exclusive bait areas or in waters open to commercial shrimping for use as bait are exempt from minimum size limit (limited to no more than the number of crabs held by a one-gallon container per boat per day).**
4. **Licensed recreational shrimp boats taking crabs in waters open to commercial shrimping are limited to no more than one 5-gallon container of legal size crabs in possession per boat.**
5. **It is unlawful to set or place crab traps in any waters in the Mobile Delta north of Interstate Hwy 10 eastbound lane and/or State Highway 90 Battleship Parkway (whichever is the southernmost highway).**
6. **It is unlawful to set or place a crab trap in the access canals to Heron Bay (west of and adjacent to State Hwy. 193) or within 300 feet of any navigational channel marked by a lawfully established system of waterway markers or within 300 feet of any public boat launching ramp or public pier, Heron Bay Cutoff, or the mouth of West Fowl River, Weeks Bay, Fish River, Magnolia River, any man-made canal, or in any manner so as to prevent ingress or egress to or from any pier, wharf, dock, marina, or boat launching ramp.**
7. (a) **The conditions for setting or placing recreational traps in the areas named in 7.(b) and 7.(c) are:**
 - (1) **Such trap must be physically attached by a line to a pier, dock, piling, bulkhead, boathouse, or other structure, on or attached to the**

shore.

(2) The line shall allow the trap to be placed **no farther than a distance of 10' from the pier, dock, boathouse, or shoreline.**

(3) **No more than 5 traps are allowed per property.**

(b) **Recreational traps** used for the taking of crabs or other seafood may be set or placed in the following rivers, creeks, bayous, bay, or canal, or their tributaries, under the conditions as set forth in 7(a).

Mobile County

Mobile River
Dog River
Theodore Industrial Canal
Fowl River
Northwest arm of Heron Bay
Heron Bayou (Long Bayou)
Bayou Coden
Bayou La Batre

Baldwin County

* Blakely River
Fly Creek
Fish River
Magnolia River
Bon Secour River (north of markers 7 & 8)
Wolf Creek
Sandy Creek
Miflin Creek
Hammock Creek
Roberts Bayou
Soldier Creek
Palmetto Creek
Old River (between Ono Island and Perdido Key)

* North of the charted position of Blakeley River Channel marker #18

(c) Recreational traps used for the taking of crabs or other seafood may be set or placed in manmade canals (including but not limited to the following on Dauphin Island), under the conditions as set forth in 7(a).

Quivera Bay
Polaris Lagoon
Port Royal Lagoon
Lafitte Bay
Indian Bay
Indian Canal
Buchanan Bay
Columbia Bay

Colony Cove
Spanish Bay
Barcelona Bay
Confederate Bay
Salt Creek (Heron Bayou)
Government Cut
Billy Goat Hole

8. Crab traps shall not exceed **twenty-seven (27) cubic feet** in volume.
9. Recreational crab traps must be marked with an **orange, floating, visible buoy** not less than 6" in diameter or width. The buoy must have a legible letter "R", at least 2" high, permanently affixed to it.
10. It is unlawful to take crabs from traps belonging to another person without written authorization from the owner.
11. Crab traps which are no longer serviceable or in use **must be removed from the water by the owner.** No person shall intentionally damage or destroy crab traps or the floats or lines attached thereto.
12. Any unidentified, improperly marked, or illegally placed crab trap(s) is/are considered a nuisance and will be confiscated.