

Number of Comments in each Comment Category:

Focus (194) -- Comments about the focus of the commercial crab regulation, for example: "Why regulate LCC crabbers when some other factor has a bigger impact."
(Note: Comments about recreational crabbing are placed under the "Recreational Restriction" topic.)

Data (31) -- Comments expressing doubt about DNR's scientific figures, e.g. "Another survey said x, when DNR says y".

Extenuating Circumstances (20) -- Comments which contend that latent effort on the part of LCC holders is not by choice.

Population (5) -- Comments which contend that latent effort has been due to concerns about the crab population.

Entitlement (13) -- Comments which contend that LCC license holders are entitled to forego crabbing, because they paid for the license.

Notice (4) -- Comments which contend that insufficient notice was given before licenses were frozen.

Transfer (3) -- Comments claiming (erroneously) that DNR is taking inactive licenses and giving them to active crabbers

Recreational Restriction (48) -- Comments contending that recreational crabbing licenses should be rolled back or restricted further instead of freezing inactive LCC licenses.

Review (14) -- Comments suggesting that DNR freeze LCC licenses on a case-by-case basis.

Employment (7) -- Comments objecting to the license freeze on the basis that the crabbers are not able to be consistently active because they hold a second job.

Culture (12) -- Comments objecting to the license freeze on a cultural basis (e.g. crabbing is a way of life, crabbing is a family tradition, license is kept for family's use, etc.)

Insurance (17) -- Comments contending that inactive licenses were being held as a fallback in case of a job loss or depletion of retirement funds.

Improvement (0) -- Comments objecting to the license freeze because the crab population has begun to recover.

Other (27) -- Comments that don't fit anywhere else (e.g.: "Vote Republican", non-text comments)

Note: A total of 263 comment entries were made by the public in notebooks available at the open house events.

The entries by event location are as follows: 93 Earleigh Heights, 41 Fruitland, 114 Easton, and 15 Solomon's Isl.

Most entries contained comments in more than one comment category. Each comment was placed in a category. There were a total of 405 comments.

The number of comments in each category are indicated above.

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Culture	You are right when you say that a crabbing license carries with it a lot of pride and family values. My crabbing license came to me through a very dear and trusted friend. It came at a time when my health failed me. I worked hard to get my health back so that I could enjoy crabbing. Now my sons are at age where they could help me go out on the water a few times each summer and hopefully catch a bushel or two. Too many people who never have followed along on one of these infrequent trips on the water are making too many decisions about a person's possessions. To freeze a license such as what I have would be un-American.	
4/27/2009	Culture	This is a joke! I have had enough of this "career waterman" and "latent" term. I have gone around this circle that looks like a middle school science project. Let me say this. I would be a career waterman if the cost of living would not have me living in a house trailer. You think I am ignorant enough to believe that this is not an attempt to remove what has been in my family for years?	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Culture	I'm a fourth generation crabber and I want to pass this great tradition down to my son and I want him to do the same. I spent my first 18 years of my life working or playing on the water (Eastern Shore - Taylor's Island, Secretary MD and Cambridge area). I grew up seining, trotlining, crab potting, pound netting and oystering (patent and hand togging, dredging). Each spring I would help seed oysters with my dad and uncle. After turning 18 I went into the Navy for 3 years and when I came out I went back working on the water (crabbing and oystering) for a couple of years and if it wasn't for the cut back on catching oysters I would be working on the water full time. At that time I started a family and the uncertainty of the cold winters and the limit on oyster catch (no work/no money) I would still be there. Because I was having difficulty in the winter I moved to Baltimore and began working at [Lockheed] Martins Aerospace, during which time I worked night shift.	
4/20/2009	Culture	If someone was to transfer their LCC to a family member and they began using it this year would DNR still take that license? Or freeze it?	
	Culture	Under no circumstances should licenses be arbitrarily frozen. These licenses represent a heritage to many of us that the state should not destroy. The proposal has already destroyed the crab reporting process.	
4/21/2009	Culture	I have paid for my license for many years. My family historically worked the water. My license is like a family heritage. Make the license paid in full as a recreational license that my family can inherit.	
4/21/2009	Culture	I have a 12 year old boy who loves fishing and crabbing, you will take that away from him, that keeps him busy in the summer and he will start getting into trouble and maybe on drugs. As he gets older, having my crab license is very important to my family. There are not allot of jobs kids where I live. This will hurt my family allot!	
4/21/2009	Culture	The issue of freezing or removing licenses is a family issue in many cases, therefore, an emotional issue. This is not your concern, as an agency, but families who have depended on licenses or have held licenses while inactive view the license as an asset that has value in making a living and in the context of a family life.	
4/21/2009	Culture	I am one of those LCC license holders. I have inherited my license and hope to pass it on to my son, daughter, or other deserving family member. Like any skilled trades when someone new comes in to compete and has the potential to take away some of my livelihood there is going to be friction. I recommend that those of us who inherit these licenses be required to show proof that they know what they are doing or do a six-month apprenticeship. We already have the license but this requirement will help establish a better working relationship between the old-timers and the new kids. The DNR will be better off for it as well.	
4/21/2009	Culture	Referencing the suggestion that those who inherit LCC licenses should show proof of confidence in their ability to crab with line or pots to hold on to them or do an apprenticeship of six months. There are some that may know one and not the other process to be able to meet their catch limits.	
4/21/2009/	Culture	I completely understand not wanting all the latent losses coming back into the market. But my license was given to me by my grandfather who was crabbing before you even needed a license by an inheritance. I don't feel that things that have been inherited should be able to be touched. He wanted it to stay in the family and I feel it should be. My grandfather owned a seafood processing plant and my parents owned a crab house. This license means a lot to me and I feel my family had more than given back to the resource and the State of Maryland through taxes, economy and recovery projects.	
4/21/2009	Culture	Many of the latent holders are too old or no longer have interest in working the water. Older watermen are very defiant because their license is their link to their memories and past.	

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4/27/2009	Data	Publicize the age distribution of the license holders by license types.	
4/27/2009	Data	A lot of this information is not accurate. Even the DNR's numbers aren't always correct. 2. There has to be more involvement by us watermen for anything to work.	
4/27/2009	Data	The numbers you do get are hardly, if ever, accurate!	
4/27/2009	Data	Recreation crabbers take way way more than DNR numbers indicate. 8 to 10% is a joke. Try 20-30%! DNR doesn't have the officers or the resources to enforce current laws on recreation crabbers.	
4/27/2009	Data	All catch amounts are estimated. Very few trotlines meet their daily catch limits. Therefore I do not believe that a 5% increase in LCC (demand to active) will make much difference.	
4/27/2009	Data	Chart 33 - The assumption that 1,000 license holders will harvest 10 bushel of crabs on each of 10 trips is invalid. 1 LCC license can fish 50 pots - there is no way you will harvest 10 bushel on 50 pots. If trotlining, I have yet to see 10 bushel harvested on any day - at least on the western shore.	
4/16/2009	Data	The estimated recreation catch is highly inaccurate - working and living on the water - second generation - I know that the percentage is low. I believe 1 bushel per boat per day is unacceptable -quota. Many recreational crabbers are selling their catch.	
4/16/2009	Data	The key word seems to be <u>potential</u> for the reason to freeze or take LCC licenses. What data is there on the <u>potential</u> of more use of the LCC licenses or less use of the same? What has been the trend on this?	
4/16/2009	Data	There are far more recreational crabbers "100,000" than LCC and TFL.	
4/16/2009	Data	These numbers are skewed.	
4/16/2009	Data	Your recreational crab data is not correct. Way too low.	
4/16/2009	Data	How can you gather all this data when recreational crabbers do not report?	
4/16/2009	Data	Recreational % is way low.	
4/16/2009	Data	Understanding first of all the uncertainty of the population of a natural resource whether due to the health of their environment, weather influences, or over fishing - all the harvest figures can <u>only</u> tell us what <u>has</u> happened, not what <u>will</u> happen. Agreed we have to base harvest potential by the reports and data we have - but how can the individual have faith in these numbers? Given the information <u>may</u> be correct.	
4/20/2009	Data	Your charts are interesting. I, though, I have a question - did you use the number of crabbers in each year of catch? Say you had 250 crabbers at first and declined each year did you change your numbers? Also I don't think your inactive license holders are going to start crabbing? Are you trying to stop them from transferring their license?	
4/20/2009	Data	Recreational crabbing is more like 50%. You are not counting drop pots, recreational pots, and trot lines. People purchase these pots - do not buy licenses and therefore cannot be counted. The amount of people who purchase pots in Delaware and crab in the Bay is significant - not 10-20%.	
4/20/2009	Data	How can you determine the number of crabs caught by Recreational crabbers when there are thousands of piers with pots and crabbers on them that never report a catch or follow the laws.	

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4/20/2009	Data	If the state don't create a problem with crabs, state jobs will be done away with. So with your numbers about crabs you can create what you want to believe. Its not about the crab. Its about money.	
4/20/2009	Data	Why isn't female peelers included in the bushel count? They too are potential breeders are they not? How many of the LCC license holders are actually working daily? Even if all LCC license holders were to go back crabbing the law of too much supply for demand would stop them. How many bushels of peelers are caught and taken out of any change to reproduce. They don't count as a bushels of females - we are losing valuable production here people.	
4/20/2009	Data	Your illustrations were well done, however, it doesn't prove they're fact. No idiot, not alone 1,000 crab license holder, will enter the industry at one time. This is a theory that someone has dreamed up to make their job seem more important. At this time of economic difficulty the state should spend their money to advance the economic opportunities for all people. Don't worry about the watermen, they have seen worse times than this. The new problems will be the high cost of operating and government regulations which will force them to stop. Let the marketplace determine who works on the water - not the government. The government is to represent and protect and these proposals do neither!	
4/21/2009	Data	I think your numbers on recreational crabbers are wrong! On the Chester River there is a larger number of recreational crabbers than commercial.	
4/21/2009	Data	I believe some changes need to be made. However, there are some key points that need to be addressed. 1. This seminar. After license holders have attended this seminar, how many do you think will falsify this year's catch record? Where does that put your harvest data for 2009? Was this thought of this year to set up mandatory license freeze for 2010? 2. Speculation. The crab numbers provided are speculation. The great State of Maryland has no idea how many illegal aliens are in the state and any given time. How in hell do you expect to have an ACCURATE crab count? 3. Striped Bass. My father held a TFL (or equivalent) to drift gill nets since before I was born (age 31 now). He dropped the license when the Commercial Striped Bass Moratorium was placed into effect. I now fish gill nets with his old partner. In any given trip, each striped bass taken out of a gill net will have 2-4 blue crabs (\$.50) size and often food in its stomach. Multiply that times the fish in the Bay, per day, per year. How much yield is lost there?	
4/21/2009	Data	Crab Decline. As stated in #3 with the striped bass, it appears there is a sharp decline around 1997-1998. How come someone doesn't approximate striped bass population alongside blue crab population? I have a sneaking suspicion that when the bass population was down in the 90's, the crab population was up.	
4/21/2009	Data	How do you define or determine the status of underutilized active licenses.	
4/21/2009	Data	Rockfish are eating more crabs, not enough menhaden. That is a problem, not a potential problem.	
4/21/2009	Data	There needs to be better accountability of what is being harvested right now. 1. More police on the water enforcing current harvests. 2. Better way of tracking current harvest.	
4/21/2009	Data	The estimates that are shown for the recreational crabbers don't seem to be accurate. Suggestion: Account for what is really harvested by who and where. More information is needed before hasty and harsh decisions are acted upon.	

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4/21/2009	Data	Do away with the question at the bottom of your reports that asks how many crabs do you sell and keep -- the sell part scares watermen from reporting the truth.	
4/21/2009	Data	First of all, you have no idea how many crabs are harvested by recreational crabbers 8-10% yeah, right. You need to be at a landing on a weekend to see for yourself. You would be amazed!!! 2. Next you use the words potential and assume not very scientific. Understand not an exact science.	
4/21/2009	Data	Why not a recreational license and report to accurately capture the harvest? Is this just a guess?	
4/21/2009	Data	Opposed to the current program of targeting commercial crabbers. A) No data has been furnished to show any trends over last 5 years to indicate inactive license holders have returned in numbers to effect the harvest.	
4/27/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Why is documented military service the only possible exemption?	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I think that what you identify as a problem is very <u>real</u> and I appreciate your concerns. If you are unable to crab because of temporary illness or injury - there should be some exceptions.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	If my license is taken I have nothing, not used at this time for health reasons. I have supported the DNR and State of Maryland for years. I hold a TFL.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	My concern as a TFL CB9 holder is that this is the beginning of more freezes/license loss. I am currently active duty coast guard and have very little time to commercial crab/fish. This has already effected me as far as how many bushels of females I can keep. That change did not have an impact on me directly because I am still active. Now if I decided to get out and start crabbing again this would have a huge impact on my income. I do turn in catch reports when I make it out, but believe that I would fall under the category of under utilized. I do plan on returning to commercial crabbing in the future and do not want to see my license be restricted to the point that I could not make a living. Just my concerns.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I have had an LCC license since the early 80's and handed in reports every year. Health problems the last 6 years have kept me from crabbing. Now that I have my health back my licenses may be gone. Wrong! Very wrong.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Keep in mind when I applied for my LCC it was legal to crab in the evenings. That has changed and stopped me from crabbing part time or every evening. I now own a Patent Dipper and Line Puller and 5000' of line.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	On the subject of discrimination beyond one's control consideration should be given to those non-crabbers who fail to meet prepared criteria for documented medical reasons.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Exemption for medical reasons need to be addressed with proof of condition.	
4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I can't utilize my license because of the time restrictions that have been imposed on me. Give me my 10 hour day starting earlier. I am off the water before conflict with recreational crabbers and my product gets to my wholesaler earlier. A win for both parties. I also suffer less dead loss getting out of the sun sooner.	

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4/16/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Taking licenses from crabbers with medical, family, boat, and other problems does not help the crab population.	
4/20/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I hold a TFL and feel that my license should not be at risk to being pulled. This is due to my service to the United States military resulting in my license showing inactivity. My discharge date from the USMC was 18DEC2008.	
4/20/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Does health problems have any effect - property ownership, etc.	
4/20/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Health - [illegible] - Commercial Boat License, etc.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I've owned my LCC for 12 years and been paying on it regularly. I'm 19 years old now and finally have the chance to use my LCC because I'm ready financially, but now it's being taken from me?!! That's terrible being that I have never been late on any annual payment.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I have not used my license for health reasons.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	I have the same situation as above.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Don't try to take away college students' way to make extra money. Take away from out of states not my sons.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Furthermore, an exception needs to be made for those who have medical/health problems that precluded them from crabbing previously. A signed statement from a crabber's doctor should be sufficient for renewing the license.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	There are several reasons a person does not crab. Health, other job, lack of crabs.	
4/21/2009	Extenuating Circumstances	Another strong example of why a license may be "under-utilized" could be because he or a family member has become seriously ill or injured. If a loved one depended on the crabber to assist with everyday functions and numerous trips to a doctor or hospital, it could have a devastating effect on the amount of time a person could be out on the water crabbing.	
4/16/2009	Employment	The regulation of the ten hour workday - wiped me out. If you or anyone think the blue crab season can sustain you for a living you're wrong, never can and never will. I had to move onto other work like many, just because some are idle for any reason, health, hardship or other reasons.	
4/16/2009	Employment	It seems to me that the DNR feels that full time watermen have more of a right to the resource. A lot of people are part time and should not be penalized for that.	

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4/16/2009	Employment	While working night shift at Martins I would crab during the day (100 crab pots) never made much money but really enjoy crabbing. I did this for 2 summers and after the second summer it was becoming too much. So, I gave up the 100 crab pots and my license. And decided to crab (trotline) just for the fun. But, I knew one day I wanted to get back into crabbing. About one year after giving up my license I found out that MD wasn't going to give licenses out any more. So, I signed up for the Limit Crab License. I wanted these because one day I knew I wanted to get back on the water. I do crab now with the license and involve my wife and son.	
4/20/2009	Employment	How will DNR take into account if someone just now in 2009 begins to use a LCC that they have not been using in the last 5 years? Will they allow that person to keep the LCC? Is there going to be a bushel minimum to determine who keeps theirs and who loses? I realize that you say you are looking out for the 'career' watermen but what about those of us that need the supplemental income?	
4/21/2009	Employment	I have taken charter crabbing trips since 1970 when I came home from Vietnam. This has been a continuing business for me for years. I have crab potted intermittently for many years, but recently devoted all time to trotlining commercially and crabbing party trotlines. I may, in future restart crab potting, but have no immediate intentions to do so., but I don't want to be giving up my option to do so. I am a full time waterman, fish crab oyster etc... 2nd how am I supposed to register crabbers on my charter boat. 3rdly I take professors and students from various east coast colleges through Chesapeake Bay Foundation trotline crabbing. Also many more kids and students than the "Living Classroom." This all is done for learning and research and promotion of the industry! Thank you for having these open housing events!!	
4/21/2009	Employment	I have an LCC license and haven't harvested crabs for quite a few years -- my license is for part time use and since the restrictions made it so you can't harvest in the PM it hindered my use.	
4/21/2009	Employment	If you take my license, you TAKE my own job and you at least have incs. for me and Social Security from the state . How will I live now w/ hands!!	
4/16/2009	Entitlement	*it's wrong to take people's licenses that had them all their lives.	
4/16/2009	Entitlement	Don't take people's license, some of us has had them over 25 years. Next Maryland will want to take our driver's license if we don't own a car. What next?!!	
4/16/2009	Entitlement	Licenses have value don't screw us by taking them You will force non-active crabbers to become active to maintain license.	
4/20/2009	Entitlement	I hold a TFL and pay my fees and file reports and feel that the State shouldn't be allowed to pull someone's license because they see fit.	
4/20/2009	Entitlement	If someone reviews these license regardless of class or limits, they are purchasing something to own, no different than any other property owned. NO ONE has the right to take something that you own free and clear. It would be no different than someone coming to me and saying that you haven't used your car so we are taking it from you even though you own it free and clear!	
4/20/2009	Entitlement	Relative to the license only being the licensee's for 1 yr. At renewal and the Attorney General determining that basically these licenses are owned by the State - I'd like to see where that is in writing retroactively back to when each license was issued - this sounds quite overreaching by the state government! Are such rules just made up as time goes along or is there true legal precedent for such a determination? Again why not just stop issuing new licenses and leave already issued licenses alone!	

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4/21/2009	Entitlement	You have taken fishing from me. I have paid for my license for 35 years since I had to pick from them and caught fish for years. I had crabs now you want to take my crabbing license. NO THANKS.	
4/21/2009	Entitlement	Also license is used for fishing -- if you freeze the license I have to pay extra for a license with economy I really need to pay for something twice.	
4/21/2009	Entitlement	If take 1, take them all. Limits -- put new ones in effect for everyone. Same limit. Never had these problems many years ago. It was a way for the State to make money. They will keep on making it no matter how they do it. What if the State decided if you owned a black car you couldn't drive anymore. Still had to pay license and registration but could drive it. How fair would that be. It's the same. This is America as long as we pay our fee and follow the guideline how can you consciously take our money but tell us no.	
4/21/2009	Entitlement	? Career watermen Even though the license is not currently active, this is considered a career. Are you laying us off? If you feel you can void our license, are you going to reimburse us for the years we have renewed them? (\$60.00 per year). These are our licenses and we have "played by the rules" as the state has mandated! Please advise what other licenses you have decided and successfully expired! Consider the ages of current holders! Again, I reiterate this is a career that we have maintained by paying your (State's) annual fees!! We demand at least REFUNDS for the past years! It appears you are holding these open houses without allowing the numbers of concerned holders to speak as a whole for your convenience and public relations. WHAT'S NEXT. How many DNR Enforcement will be laid off? Suggestion: Pilot the numbers of additional crabbers over the next 2-3 years. We are not a threat! Then decide this if necessary. ?Virginia State What have they done? ?NC/SC/Florida/Georgia What have these states done?	
4/21/2009	Entitlement	I paid for a license since its been offered. This was not a condition of ownership. What will be done to reimburse these costs.	
4/21/2009	Entitlement	Many LCC licenses have been kept current and the yearly fees paid. Many are latent for various reasons, but there is some value in them. The min. for buying a LCC is \$2,000. What would it be worth if there were no possibility of using it? \$0. Paid the fees for all these years and would now have nothing. Need to find a fairer approach.	
4/21/2009	Entitlement	First consider that because a license of any kind in good standing is "under-utilized" it should be revoked is fundamentally wrong. There is nothing in the licensing "contract" that dictates how much a license "must be used"! Limits on seasons, type and quantity of equipment and other aspects of rules pertaining to harvesting crabs are all properly addressed, but nothing states that you must be on the water crabbing as specific amount of time or you possibly face the prospect of losing your license.	
4/27/2009	Focus	More DNR Police on the <u>water</u> !! Not in offices!! 2. Increase staff at DNR office to process catch reports. 3. Next will be the TFLs??	

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4/27/2009	Focus	*All licenses LCC, TFL, CB9 that allow the harvest of crabs, when turned in or not renewed should be retired and not re-circulated. This would help to reduce effort. *Latent effort from all license types should be treated equally on crab harvest. *Bycatch should be removed. It was a mistake and should be corrected. Most people know that it is abused and it is difficult to enforce. If no fish sales are reported or fish taken I feel crab bycatch is illegal. *Do not relax female harvest too quickly, go slow and gradual. *I believe that the buy back of licenses has much potential. *Do not stop the ability to transfer licenses. *If a person has recently retired and wants to be active they should be allowed to, perhaps in a reduced level. *Perhaps a limit cap percentage-wise on all licenses should be imposed for all license types when inactive crabbers want to become active again. When a crabber has been inactive, a declaration of intent should be declared for renewal and if a certain number declare to become active again then certain limits will be imposed or a lottery for the number of crabbers that could be allowed be held.	
4/27/2009	Focus	I am tired of watermen (active or inactive) being blamed for the problem with the bay. This state and the people that run it. They love two dollars! Therefore the bay has been overwhelmed with growth. I am not dumb enough to believe that runoff and sewer overflows haven't killed more seafood than us 4,000 "latent" LCC crabbers would take in a summer. No grass no crabs no fish! You all have a fight coming! My license are not being taken!	
4/27/2009	Focus	You need to make us part of the decision-making process. (Panel of watermen, not just members of MWA!)	
4/27/2009	Focus	Instead of reducing the number of recreational licenses - reduce the equipment and fishing times. This will not affect the quality of the experience.	
4/27/2009	Focus	Offer a license buy back and see how many takers you get.	
4/27/2009	Focus	I think a closure for harvesting females for all will help the population return to what it was. Virginia also needs to stop winter dredging! I also believe that trotliners do not often meet their daily catch limits.	
4/27/2009	Focus	Pollution - dead zones, dead fish. Extremely poor water quality and NO Government is doing anything!	
4/16/2009	Focus	ALSO, 4000 LCC didn't report in the last four years. Too bad I agree with DNR. Temporarily freeze them.	
4/16/2009	Focus	I ALSO AGREE ABOUT THE FREEZE.	
4/16/2009	Focus	There is no crystal ball. No way are all latent going to be working.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Restrict female harvest period - no females, no winter dredge in Virginia. North Carolina and South are producing record years - why? Water quality has deteriorated greatly where I live and work - why?	

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4/16/2009	Focus	Addressing the crab concerns via latent crabbers will have absolutely no impact on the fishery resource, the latent license should help the fishery because it should require DNR to consider them in their seasonal regulations. This presentation highlights DNR's interest in only benefiting the "working commercial crabber" and not the crab resource. This year's actual regulation will not change the harvest from last year even though the annual catch remains below average. Female harvest should be further restricted. The season is too long, it should be reduced by at least one month at both ends. May 1 to Nov 11. Most LCC license holders trotline and are generally only effective from June to October and are somewhat limited by the weather and time in the water. Crab pots fish 24-7. This latent effort only camouflages DNR's ongoing effort to maximize the resource for a limited number of commercial crab potters to exploit the resource 9 months a year.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Crabs should not be exploited or directed for the benefit of a few just because other resources have been depleted due to pollution and over fishing! Everything I see is a band aid to fix the crab problem. Pollution is the main cause of the lack of them - years ago twice the watermen and no lack of crabs. Today 1/2 the watermen and way way less crabs - harvesting isn't causing the crab shortage. Possible female harvesting could be a factor but pollution is the main cause for the lack of grass and crabs.	
4/16/2009	Focus	I do not believe we should harvest any female crabs. I believe we need a 3-5 year moratorium on crabbing just like we did for the rockfish - that worked! A fair market buy back of licenses is worth considering.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Do not crab for females. Give everyone the better license.. See more No LCC.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Buy back LCC license holders for market price of min \$2,000.00.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Stop pollution.	
4/16/2009	Focus	No out of state crabbers. NONE. I would rather see bushel limits of females. Latent effect should be on all license holders, NOT JUST LCC.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Require all license holders to report catch.	
4/16/2009	Focus	You can not target LCC licensees and not everyone else. Remember DNR made the law about not crabbing before sunrise and off the water in early afternoon. We followed your rules so now I can only crab on weekends and now you say I am not using my license enough. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't. Stop out of state crab licenses. Do not freeze anyone's licenses. Just do not issue any new licenses of any kind. Stop the harvest of female crabs for one year and see what happens to the crab population. Allow more rockfish (to be harvested) because they are eating all the soft crab because they have no sea grass to hide in. Close crab season for everyone 30 days early.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Set 2 limits: Upper Bay, lower bay.	
4/16/2009	Focus	DNR has already said over and over that latent licenses are a problem, seems to me that the writing is on the wall. The real problem is the smoke screen going on in Annapolis about cleaning up the bay. I just got a Cracker Barrel in my neighborhood. They built it at the head of Thompson Creek. If the bay had grass and clean water the resource would be fine. But if I had to choose, I would consider a buy back (better than just taking them). You should just leave it alone.	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Focus	Limit to male harvest only would be ok. But leave out the agreement that you can no longer transfer or the other part of the solution to it.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Yes I agree, male harvest ok. But let me transfer my license to family members.	
4/16/2009	Focus	When, if ever, was there a surge of inactive crabbers to become active crabbers? Was advised that most recent number was 300 of 4,000. 2. When money is tight and the crab population is down, why is DNR pursuing a problem that doesn't exist and without substantial evidence that it will happen? Again 300 of 4,000. 3. When the crab population is down why does DNR insist on penalizing inactive crabbers in such a harsh manner? 4. Should I immediately catch more crabs or transfer my license to someone who will? Counterproductive to the crab population.	
4/16/2009	Focus	If the crab index will not have enough crabs, shut it down like the rockfish and build back for all license holders. Stop all female peelers. Put biodegradable panels on all crab pots that degrade in 3 weeks and stop catching ghost pots.	
4/16/2009	Focus	I worry about the word 'under utilized' in this open house presentation. If it means as long as I actively crab at all and report my catch I'm ok, then I have no problem.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Don't discriminate by affecting LCC holders. If you freeze license do it across the various crab license types. DNR actions or intent have made my business worthless - I can't even sell it now. Other states in New England have at least bought out the various fishers. Why not start by asking for volunteers to freeze their license across all types or register voluntarily inactive status for a specific period before an across the board freeze.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Solution A - TERRIBLE B->E=Better Solution	
4/16/2009	Focus	Latent licenses are not the problem, management of the crab population is the problem. Any effort to control or freeze any license should apply to all commercial license holders. You should stop attempting to take the LCC license in your effort to support and show favoritism to the BIG boys. You can control the crab harvest at any time through restriction of the reduced amount of gear or harvest limit. Female harvest should be drastically reduced or maybe eliminated for 1 or 2 years. Stop favoring the <u>big money boys</u> .	
4/16/2009	Focus	Do not allow catch of females.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Over crabbing by latent licenses is not the reason for problems with the crab population. The real problem is the state's inability to stop the overflow of their pumping stations into the rivers and bay - adding much pollution to the bay.	
4/16/2009	Focus	I favor plan A	
4/16/2009	Focus	The bushel or two that I would crab for are nothing in comparison to the Virginia crabber that still comes into Maryland waters. Don't do this potentially damaging idea - freeze and take away my license.	
4/16/2009	Focus	In a free society solution C seems ok.	
4/16/2009	Focus	You took my money all these years and now you want to take my right to crab (its just wrong).	
4/16/2009	Focus	I strongly support DNR's plan to address the long standing problem of latent effort in the blue crab fishery. It should have been started some years ago. Fishing licenses are a privilege and not a private property right they are good only for the year purchased.	

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4/16/2009	Focus	Dippers drown a lot of small crabs running 3,000' and better lines when catch size increases the 5" crabs thrown back after being dragged better than 3,000' die. Restrict length of line. 3. Reduce sook catch more toward the end of the season.	
4/16/2009	Focus	The problem you are addressing is not fixing the problem. You are allowing a new way of crabbing that is destroying not only females but, crabs that have just sloughed as well. There are a fleet of boats trailing nets that power through the creeks taking everything that comes up on the line. Sure they cull at the end of a run but the damage is done. Doublers with soft females end up with the female crushed. Paper shells are crushed and small crabs have their shells pierced by the crab coming in after them. Our creeks are extremely important to the health of our industry. If you want to help the crabbing industry, ban this kind of crabbing not take our license.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Limit female catch, also Solution E could work.	
4/16/2009	Focus	The TFL is a very expensive license and any latent fisherman has made a significant financial payment to hold such license. To freeze or remove that license should be illegal on the grounds of theft. Given the investment that has been made.	
4/16/2009	Focus	My license was handed down from my uncle to my father then to me. I continue to pay for it but do not use it. I don't think it is fair for the DNR to take it away just because (IF) I decide to someday use it. How can the DNR say IF any of the inactive license holders will ever use them. IF hasn't happened yet whose to say it ever will. If DNR is worried about the crab population then come up with a more accurate system to maintain the crab fishery throughout the year.	
4/16/2009	Focus	keep on track with limited female or all female closure for several years as necessary. -People and times are changing and some people may sell back or give up their license when they know of the situation. -Why is a potential such a problem all of a sudden? -Its easy to do right the first time than undo bad decisions.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Any action taken should impact all user groups equally regardless of type license held.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Personally I believe this effort on latent license holders is a scam. One needs to look at the problem. The problem is the over harvest of females. Pay S. Bay and Virginia crabbers and take their license back. Allow <u>only</u> the harvest of male crabs period end of story! No species can survive when the females are allowed to be taken.	
4/16/2009	Focus	The problems leading up to this have been ignored by <u>Two States</u> for decades. As usual, "the little guy" will now pay the price for the state of MD's negligence and ignorance. When I learned of aprons being ripped from sponge crabs as a young child, I knew that the crab industry was terribly mismanaged. As I grow older, I realized that the state must also know this. Could the state have put money in front of the well-being of a species? Also as I grew older I realized that a state willing to accept political payoffs to allow a steel plant to dump tons and tons of pollutants in the bay, is this species worst enemy. I am already bracing myself for the new taxes the state is going to create to take the place of my license fee if it is taken from me. I think crabs will rebound quickly if two conditions are addressed: 1. Females must be protected from all crabbers despite their license status. 2. The health of the bay is critical to the crabs and needs to be addressed right now as well as long term. They have a three year life span and will repopulate extremely quickly if given the chance (much faster than the rockfish).	

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Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Focus	Comments - outright ban on mature hard females. Allow them to spawn and generate the future harvest. Peeler females and soft females -> allow. Impose catch restrictions only on crabbers who move from non-active to active. If there is a freeze, set a 2 year expiration. Allow the current environmental and economic factors to play out. Give active and non-active crabbers and the DNR time to develop a long term solution within the 2 years. Do not charge the annual license fee to frozen licenses.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Comments - If everyone with their commercial license reported everything in their report, it still wouldn't matter. There will always be problems no matter what the rules or regulations are!! I still know of crabbers keeping illegal size crab on wrong days and over caught their bushel! Unless you watched 24-7 it doesn't matter. There will always be problems so lets enjoy crabbing while nature still provides!	
4/16/2009	Focus	For the past 11 years there have not been enough crabs to warrant baiting your trotline because you could not get your money back. By putting a moratorium on Rockfish the crab population has declined because there are so many of them and they eat soft crabs and peelers. You need to stop the harvest of female crabs and the smaller size limit in Virginia. The state needs to stop the factories from polluting the Bay. The surveys for crabbing were a nuisance and I bet people just put numbers down and I would bet that they are only 50% accurate. I have had a license since this started and have filled out the surveys truthfully. Simms from the Maryland Waterman's Association keeps saying there is not a shortage of crabs. What the Hell is he smoking? I think we need to get rid of the Government and let nature take its course.	
4/16/2009	Focus	If you have licenses that are not renewed then they should be frozen before anyone's license should be frozen. No new licenses should be given out. Period.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Raise size limit to 6" on male crabs. Set limits on crabbers with 300, 600, 900 pots.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Solution A or B - totally unacceptable. Solution C - palatable. The career waterman need to face reality now or later. They already take the lion's share and supplementing the harvest by taking from another user group is not an option. Solution D - best solution.	
4/16/2009	Focus	If it has not been a problem in the past, why would it be a problem tomorrow. The real reason is not being disclosed. Do not take females.	
4/16/2009	Focus	If you freeze or take away usage of my license I have had for 25+ years - you have made the value - 0 - compensation must be rendered I am totally against any freeze or a devaluation of my license.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Reduce LCC license = 2,000x\$60=\$120,000 loss to DNR coffers = dumb on DNR's part. Do not need more DNR Police = enforce and restrict commercial harvest to sustainable limit. No such thing as a career crabber.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Maybe taking away ALL licenses that have not been "used" for five years to be considered but do not take a license that is being used	
4/16/2009	Focus	It is very simple - get a quote when it's limit is hit you shut it down like they do in Alaska.	
4/16/2009	Focus	There is no problem with latent effort, DNR just thinks there might be so targeting the LCC is an easy way to look like you are doing something.	
4/16/2009	Focus	One way of controlling the fishery - pay the license holder not to crab like they did for some farmers.	
4/16/2009	Focus	In the 80's the crab population supported licensed fishing - what happened?	

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Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Focus	To help crab population do not allow any harvest of peelers. I think if someone is reporting no matter how small but are reporting every month their license should not be frozen.	
4/16/2009	Focus	DNR made this by issuing 6000 LCC licenses. Buy the ones back that aren't being used. Just don't take them because this is a mismanagement of the fishery by DNR, not the people that have the licenses!	
4/16/2009	Focus	Latent is the only thing that should be targeted at this time, under utilized is "0" bushels.	
4/16/2009	Focus	People who have not crabbed will start crabbing again on report that they are to keep their license.	
4/16/2009	Focus	You can take all the licenses you want but it will not solve the problem. DNR fails to see the real problems - runoff, fertilizer on lawns, too many crabs not enough oxygen in rivers. In 1970's we had 300 crab pot limit everybody made a living limit pots to 500 and peeler pot to 300 and you will see increase in crab population.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Shorter season and 5 1/4" hard crab all season. I have maintained this LCC license for many years.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Limits should not be put on active LCC holders just because some choose not to crab. <u>Use it or lose it.</u>	
4/16/2009	Focus	I have been crabbing for 30 years. I do not crab everyday and I only keep quality crabs. I throw back more crabs than I keep. I only crab the Wye River. I would like to see the size limit increase from 5" to 5 1/2" this would insure larger and better crabs. I do not keep females until late September or October. The problem with the crabs are the season starts too early and runs too late. I crab the Wye River and if I do not see any sea nettles the crabbing is poor. I would be in agreement with a year off like you did with the Rock fish. The LCCs is being targeted unfair. I am retired military with 38 years service. I am retired military and give the crabs to my elderly neighbors who can not afford crabs. If it is not broke don't fix it.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Unused crab license could be a problem if crab stock is low but a low level in crab stock usually leads to small catches. Why rush to work for nothing. If it comes down to thinning the licenses down then if the majority of your income should dictate who is who. Remember where we came from and our history. This is my job and how I provide for my family. Real watermen are not wannabes. I can't choose not to crab if I'm a waterman. Use it or loose it. Recreational numbers are too low, commercial licenses should be \$2,000.00 a year.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Solution B? What in the Hell are you smoking!	
4/16/2009	Focus	Crabbers catching doublers, they keep the females to sell for soft crabs. I've seen bushels of fertile females that could produce millions of small crabs.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Stop all female catching for everyone. Restrict number of pots used and length of trotlines. What I see here is get the little guy again!! Latent effort = imaginary effort	
4/16/2009	Focus	I got my TFL years ago for claming. Clams are gone so I crab. With my TFL I can change from one thing to something else when things are bad. If you take my TFL that I have had for years, are you going to pay for my gear and \$30,000 for my boat. Why don't you stop all crabbing for two years. This all DNR (illegible) that would save money for the state of MD and the crabs would come back. Thanks for this free state of Md.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Have more than one off day!	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Focus	I think a good way of increasing the crabs is to stop crabbing for one year. If you think its going to hurt the commercial crabbers give them crab AID - this would be set up like farm aid. But the only way you can get crab aid is if you claim crabbing on your taxes in the past. If they get crab aid they will need to help in restoring the waterway - work for the state during that time - at least one day a week.	
4/16/2009	Focus	The big potters who run this show that we are here today control it all...I'm trying to make I living off crabbing I'm on a fixed income because I don't live on the water and have to trailer my boat not like the potters who get out of their house and go crabbing. It only fair that everyone with a crabbing license pay the dues and way you look at it, it's discrimination.	
4/16/2009	Focus	STOP THE OUT OF STATE CRABBERS.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Watching the bay and how it is being managed gets me sick. I've lived on the Bay for over fifty years and to see it now is a sin. Crabbing is management and you're finally started in the right way with female crabs, why take the licenses of people who enjoy doing things like crabbing even if they don't catch many crabs. Isn't that what you are after we pay for them and we should be able to use them!	
4/16/2009	Focus	Get the LCC cause they're easy!!	
4/16/2009	Focus	I believe you should work on the REAL problem: the health of our bay waters. If you improve this crabs will not be in danger. This effort is just to say you are doing something.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Patrol more!!!	
4/16/2009	Focus	People who have TFLs will report crabs that were not harvested, just to keep their license. Opening up a big can of worms. Leave license alone. Set quotas and when met, shut down.	
4/16/2009	Focus	On Solution B: 1. I think more people would voluntarily freeze their license if it was for a specified time - say - 3-4 years - with a guaranteed availability of getting it back afterwards. If not possible, they may be more inclined to take a buy back. 2. I really agree with the male only harvest and to putting strict limits on females. 3. I also agree on not being able to transfer an inactive license to an active one. 4. I don't agree with having a license expire upon death - that's too hard on the next beneficiary to have to start completely over, that's important to be able to keep it in the family!	
4/16/2009	Focus	On Sanctuaries: Mark certain areas off limits to any crabbing whatsoever. It would be hard to be crabbing in a sanctuary without being seen by others.	
4/16/2009	Focus	Looking at the solutions - A, B, C, etc maybe a way to incorporate some of each and still manage the 46% harvest and allow those relying on the crab harvest for a living to get their share. I suggest perhaps requiring a written request to re-enter the fishery, but still allowing the licensee to hold a permit, or crab a shorter season. Allow persons over a certain age (60?) to re-enter with a limited harvest. I think a voluntary "freeze" done for each season is an option.	
4/16/2009	Focus	I have a LCC license and report each month. Allow it is for my personal use. I can see the hand writing now. Next you will take mine, because it is not my livelihood. I think there should be limits on the TFL commercial that take a lot more crabs than me. P.S. I worked on someone's boat for a couple years average 12-20 bushels a day.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/20/2009	Focus	I have had an LCC license for over 20 years. I use it just to get a few crabs for our family. I put out approximately 6 pots at a time and have been doing so for all of the years involved. I have never sold any crabs but our family has enjoyed them. I catch so few crabs that I report each crab caught (rather than bushels). Other friends in our area do essentially the same. They have no intention of becoming commercial watermen and setting out 50 pots. I have always felt that another category of license is needed for the recreational crabber - perhaps allowing him to set out only 10 pots or less. (The cost could be less also. \$60 is high for the poor recreational crabber.) We crab entirely in Assawoman Bay so Chesapeake Bay conditions are not really involved. Through the years I have felt like it was hard to get information from DNR regarding what rules applied to the ocean bays. In the years I have crabbled Assawoman Bay (and put my pots in the same spot) I have seen very little difference in the number of crabs. Occasionally there does seem to be more females.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Last year - when we had to throw back the females, we could barely get enough crabs to eat. This year I have never seen so many floats in Assawoman Bay (as I crab the Route 90 bridge). I don't usually start crabbing until late June and stop in September. Please don't take away my crabs.	
4/20/2009	Focus	If you are willing to buy back a license, then put a fair price on it like \$100.00 a pot. This is around what each pot produces! I have a 900 pot license, and \$100.00 per pot would be a fair price for me to give up \$800.00 of them to be re-distributed, and let the next person in line that receives them pay the State back for them each a \$100.00. I'd be willing to sell at that point.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Why not prohibit keeping female crabs? Why not not issue because that have been turned in or not renewed.	
4/20/2009	Focus	You must manage the female harvest. A 46% target of adult crabs is flawed. It is the female harvest that matters - Manage IT! If the 46% included 80 or 90% of the female population NOTHING would be accomplished. The problem is NOT latent effort - that is ridiculous - The problem is uncontrolled, unmanaged harvest of sooks - particularly all Fall. In theory if you removed all the inactive LCC licenses there would be a zero gain because they have not been crabbing obviously - ADDRESS the real problem not the fictitious one.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Address the real problem - pollution!! in the upper bay. Big business should be made to control pollution of upper bay. There is no problem with crab-potting. We hold 2 commercial TFL which the State will NOT TAKE from me. Please call me for further comments.	
4/20/2009	Focus	It may be a good idea to shut down the possibility of issuing new licenses instead of trying to take away current licenses active or NOT!	
4/20/2009	Focus	Instead of taking my license, because I have been paying every year, I think these licenses should be bought back - not given back.	
4/20/2009	Focus	How about leaving limits (bushels) as is for this season. See what new crabbers enter the harvest. If no differences and crab population increases, then you could raise harvest levels. Everyone thinks they are going to lose their license if not used. So they might be saying they are going to crab and still not crab. Just leave as is for now.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Why let licenses sell or will these licenses, Cut the limits. NO females.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
410-623-3620	Focus	Additional comments: - a problem with pots illegally set in the tributaries - declare intent to crab each year - freezing the LCC affects his ability to set all pots which he does but doesn't have to report his catch - the freezing till abundance is above target for 3 years is too long and not specific - Exempt old people - Freeze licenses on annual basis *Bank traps should be eliminated *Annual declaration to crab *River Road Kingston East side of river around the Manokin Stop pots being illegally set up in the tributaries *Sent in his report saying he didn't intend to crab then got a call saying he hadn't reported.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Sure if someone wants to sell, that is a good option to lower licenses. DNR buy them.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Cut out bank traps.	
4/20/2009	Focus	You need to get the crabs back by getting the bay back to the way it used to be. Most crabs used to be caught from May to Sept. Most crabbers quit crabbing and went tonging from Sept on. Very few crabs used to be harvested from mid-Sept to Dec. Less pressure on the crabs back in the 80's and 90's. The other thing that needs to be addressed is the rock population. A rock can potentially eat a bushel a week of crabs *My explanation* If a rock eats 7 small (1" to 2" crabs, or smaller) a day - if those crabs would grow to maturity a rock is potentially eating a bushel of crabs a week. If you don't want to increase the harvest of rock commercially - increase the recreational limit to 3 or 4.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Why discrimination against LCC? Why all the restriction against LCC while TFLs are totally exempt? TFLs are not the only ones crabbing for income, either totally or partially. If LCCs are limited so should the TFL, at the same rate. My fuel, food, expenses are the same as TFLs. If you restrict LCCs then restrict TFLs. TFLs require legislation for changes. LCCs do not require any legislation for change.	
4/20/2009	Focus	As stated above, why are TFLs required in legislation for change but LCCs do not require any legislation? Just the DNR's approval??	
4/20/2009	Focus	8314 Buy back!	
4/20/2009	Focus	Watermen do not need more crabs, they need more money - do something to keep the price per bushel <u>protected</u> .	
4/20/2009	Focus	Solution B is the best option to put in effect and do some more study and not rush into Sept 2009 - to put other solutions in so quickly. Solution B. If you use only licenses not used - only if other options used.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Why all the discrimination against LCC holders?	
4/20/2009	Focus	I read recently that Virginia may permit winter dredging next year, should the population of crabs be up. They permitted the taking of sponge crabs up until a few years ago. I would prefer the following: 1. Put stricter catch limits on inactive license holders should they desire to become active. 2. I am not too sure that you may cause inactive holders to become active. 3. I have paid for 20 years and I think maybe report small catches 3 or 4 years. I would expect to receive compensation for these years and for the inability to pass my license on to my son. This has been one reason I have paid every year. What would be wrong with waiting and see how many inactive become active.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/20/2009	Focus	I have been filling out crab reports since they came out. I trotline. My problem is I'm only allowed 2 bushel while someone with a TFL can set a trotline beside me and catch up to 15 bushels Depending on his license that's not right. I would have to call that discrimination. I think if you're using your license, it should be a set amount for everybody who is crab potting - just like oystering. Everybody's allowed 15 bushels. Not just certain licenses. When I signed for LCC license I didn't sign to catch 2 bushels of females, while other people can catch up to 15 bushels.	
4/20/2009	Focus	All licenses not renewed should be frozen, not reissued to people on a waiting list.	
4/20/2009	Focus	I feel the first step in addressing the female crab harvest is to offer a buy back to (ALL) license holders LCC and TFL. With the current limits on female catch it has become increasingly unprofitable to crab in the lower bay. If the buy back program is not successful in achieving the numbers recognized, harvest quotas should be allocated to ALL license holders who can use or sell their quotas.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Big crab potters are hunting the trot liners and LCCs.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Put a freeze on female crabs every two years or so. Virginia has scraped females for years, with no control by state officials until recently. That's one of the reasons there are no crab consistency.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Every female crab harvested (whether hard or soft) has the potential to produce 1-1.5 million crabs yet the commercial industry targets them. Doesn't that have more "Potential Effect" than all the LCC licenses combined.	
4/20/2009	Focus	Limit the number of pots to no more than 300 pots after all potters are crabbing 24 hours/day, seven days a week. How many TFL license holders who are not crabbing and will return so - if crabs return? Take their license along with LCC to be fair. STOP ALL FEMALE Harvest For A Year or Two. For the most part LCC holders are trot liners able to work only 8 hours daily, 6 days a week only. There is no way they will catch what a potter does especially the number of pots out there. Look at the catch limits for a moment. Why is the career waterman any more or less important than the LCC holder? Could also become LCC's career.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Another solution to the inactive LCC license could be a voluntary buyback program.	
4/21/2009	Focus	If a license is not renewed, freeze it, not the ones that have been renewed and not used. Don't issue any more if they are not renewed.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Solutions C, D & E are untenable options.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Is a "career waterman" determined by the house he lives in or the car he drives?	
4/21/2009	Focus	Attendance huge this year? Why in the world would you allow in increase in harvested females? If there is an abundance, there should be more males for industry use. If you didn't allow the increased harvest of females this year maybe you wouldn't have to ruin the lives of 4,000 people and their families.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Don't allow transfer of licenses. They can only be given up or handed down to the next generation.	
4/21/2009	Focus	If there are so many unused licenses, why is the crab population so low right now? Unused licenses seem to have no bearing on the issue.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Need more law in Talbot County. Small crabs are being harvested DAILY!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Solution B, Par. 2 is reasonable.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Allowing VA to take female sponge crabs for years and years have caused a lot of the problems in the crab population in the Bay today! Up the size of male crabs from 5 1/2" to 6". Allow more reproduction of the crabs/cut out medium (#2) crabs altogether, (one size 6" and up male crab (#1)).	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	A few suggestions: 1: Severely limit the taking of females for all licenses. 2. Solution D -- Real-time monitoring is used in many fisheries all over the world -- target harvest limits are guaranteed!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Has any thought been given to assigning zones by license holder? Limiting gear to either pots or trotline?	
4/21/2009	Focus	Stop transfers of current LCC holders to non-family members.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I am in favor of #2 -- limit to male only harvest (2 bushel max).	
4/21/2009	Focus	Potential Solutions: Freezing or revoking licenses is a taking, a taking that cannot be measured, so this is NOT A VALID SOLUTION. Change the dates of determining use of a license to include 2009, as we cannot change what is passed, but enable "latent" license holders to declare intent to use the license -- the best I can think of. STOP CREATING PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT REAL. You can't predict who will crab, so do not assume that all "latent" crabbers will crab. Start enforcing laws that have been around since I can remember -- Check boats for small crabs and sponges, enforce crab pot limits (relatively new but still important), Monitor crab pot boundaries, this is the weakest point of enforcement by DNR police, they (as for my experience) do not know how to do it properly. Have some way that "latent" license holders can keep licenses and be able to use them in some way. I for one have held TFL for rockfish allocation (which has never come) and possibly to run charters in the future; so make guide licenses available to "latent" holders as a trade-off.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I would like to see the pollution effort scrutinized as much as the statistics of the various harvests. There is a reason marine grasses are not in abundance, and I don't think silting is the only problem to hinder the grasses. Also, the effects of various hormone-drugs that are basically flushed into the Bay through unused medicine may effect the health of some species.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Open season on rockfish a little more, and see if there isn't a few more crabs!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Potential Solutions: #2 is OK -- limit to males only! But, allow LCC license to be transferred to son or daughter. (No brainer) Limit the female crab harvest (or freeze) give them a chance to reproduce. Coordinate with VA.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Seems like you are only worried about the big guys. If we start crabbing again, how it will hurt them. If crabs were more available, we would be crabbing. You limited the evening hours, took a day away (Sun. or Monday) you didn't leave much left for your average hard working American citizens. If you do it for one, you should do it for every single one. It was a second income would love to have it again. The potters are your real problem but no one has ever wanted to hear that for years. Their pots remain in the water 24-7. They physically may not be pulling them but they still catch them 24-7 for the picking -- whenever.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Commercial watermen have TFLs they work on the water all year. LCC are crabbers only. Career watermen can't stand any more cuts or we will all be part time, for we will all have to get jobs to make a living. I can't stand anymore cutbacks.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Lots of so called full time crabbers are only crabbing when the opportunity is to catch a lot. A lot work other jobs and I do not consider them full timers. Lots of people are unemployed and feel crabbers are no better to not have work than others, so reduce catch for all equally if needed to maintain acceptable levels. Personally do not keep females and believe this is way to go.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Solution B would be the fair way.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Latent effort -- DNR supporting the people and industry that got us in this mess. Limit females for all -- Charge the same fee for all.	
4/21/2009	Focus	If the female population is up, keep it up. Limit females for everyone. Then there will be more males to enjoy for all.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	The main issue is to keep a limit on the females, which was proven from last year's restrictions. Don't give in to career watermen claiming a hardship due to limiting female catch restrictions. If we continue catching all the females there won't be crabs for anyone to catch.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Quite frankly, is this because LCCs don't have a lobby like the career watermen have.	
4/21/2009	Focus	LCCs who have not crabbed much for 2-3 or 4 years are not suddenly going to jump in full time. They are holding on because they are so hard to get. No female crabs.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I am pleased to see the DNR take action on these unused licenses. Maybe one way to achieve this goal would be to freeze these licenses for the female catch! Also, some other issue I'd like to address in the crab dipper, when crabs molt and they are poor, they catch allot down one trotline because they are hungry! When they dump the crabs from the dipper, they are fighting and biting each other, therefore the poor crabs are losing a lot of fins and claws and are dying!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Also, I would prefer if we had limits based on catch history, not license types. That's the fairest way to divide the catch! By going to license this year, people are going to switch licenses to get bigger catches. I am a full time crabber who depends on crabbing to support my family. I have always reported correctly and think it is better to have limits based on history. I would hope that you would take into consideration not closing the harvest of females from Sept. 24 to Oct. 4. The problem is at that time there is no males. Are we supposed to just leave our pots in the water for 1 week without checking them? If we don't check for a week then the females will be dead, so I don't know how that is saving any females. The closure in June is not as bad because there are males to catch.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I agree with some that first you need to address the abusers. Next, any decisions made shouldn't be only for the people that haven't used their license. All changes made should be to the crabbing industry, not individuals.	
4/21/2009/	Focus	I really think you are over-reacting to the latent crabbing licenses. Those inactive crabbers don't hurt the population. I can see by the info displayed that you feel you can control the catch. The best answer is limiting the female catch.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I think the DNR has enough regulation on the books to the crab harvest. 1. Stop the sale of current licenses. It is supposed to be illegal, yet I clearly see licenses being sold in local newspapers and even the Waterman's Gazette. Why does the State's attorney overlook this regulation. And not take the license of the people selling them and that would be one less of the 4,000 you are talking about. 2. Anyone convicted of a dry charge can not hold a license. Why isn't the attorney general taking these licenses? A man goes to court is found guilty of a dry charge has a DNR license. It is taken and not given back. One less of the 4,000. 3. A waterman found guilty of violation of DNR report that he clearly knows and understands the law, violating the law intentionally should have his license taken and not given back, such as oystering or crabbing before the scheduled time. He as well as everyone else know the time and know what day is his off day. If he clearly violates the regulation, take his license. If it is a less severe violation where it is a grey area, etc., then fine him. One less of the 4,000.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	DNR could buy back the licenses of those willing to sell them. Times are hard if they need money and have a license they are not using, DNR could offer them, say, \$1,000 for the license. Once it is bought by DNR that license is bonded and not issued. My other comments are not regulation but "why not" issues. 1. I am not college educated, not a scientist or biologist. But I do know that if you change the regulation, make it illegal to catch female peelers, to sell female peelers, than all female peelers must be returned to the water. You wouldn't have a crab population program. These career watermen that you are pledged to preserve are their own worst enemy. They catch peelers and sell them for \$.50 each and practically eliminate the opportunity for them to breed and produce hundreds of thousands of juvenile crabs. Right now today, South Cowectur in Chesford will buy approx 4,000- 6,000 peelers to hold and sell them as soft crabs. If allowed to breed in the wild, how many eggs would these peelers produce? Just one day's catch? Then there's me. I have a TFL. Occasionally take along a fishing partner. I have a 50 ton masters license with the coast guard.	
4/21/2009	Focus	On one hand, you say the DNR is charged with preserving the economic viability of the career waterman, but say later that the license is only issued for one year. How is it you protect one Maryland resident (career watermen but) condemn another. When both have a license for one year. What makes one license holder different from another??? Why would you say on one hand that we are not documenting when in fact you are. A handicapped man who chooses to leave a handicapped parking space opened for someone else is still handicapped. I see no difference. Why is one person's license being protected (career watermen) and another person with a license on the same LCC are not afforded the same level of protection. It is simply discrimination.	
4/21/2009	Focus	If it has come to a freeze on licenses I think that it should be a voluntary freeze limit to male only harvest. This would still allow a license holder some way to help support his family in these economic hard times.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I have a latent LCC. I still crab but I do not sell. How do you account for what I take? 4. Why target us. Over harvested 11 out of 18 years was not caused by us! Need to look in other directions. 5. Cut female harvest. More females = more crabs very simple. Maybe some female breeding stations for release of small crabs. 6. I think if you leave licenses alone you will not see an increase of significant proportions. Has there been a significant increase of latent license use since 2004? I doubt it.	
4/21/2009	Focus	State buy the licenses back. Only fair way.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Crabbers holding licenses and not using them are not the ones over crabbing.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Once you take them we will never get them back. Look what happened to the rock fish. It sounds good on paper but wake up. The potters are your real problems. Keep them from crabbing 24-7 like the rest of us. Be fair all the way or leave us alone.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Consider buy-back w/option to buy in later from pool of frozen licenses.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Give the crabs a break to reproduce -- freeze female harvest for one year at least! (Both TFL and LCC). Why remove LCC licenses for the sole benefit of TFL licenses. LCC license holders have as much right to crab in Maryland.	
4/21/2009	Focus	No commercial licenses to out-of-stators!	
4/21/2009	Focus	The reverse buy-out will not work and is not "fair". It should be one set fee for everyone (perhaps based on how many years a license has been held).	
4/21/2009	Focus	Stop keeping females of any kind.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	I pay my license fee every year like any other license holder. I'm am entitled to keep my license whether I choose to leave my share of crabs in the water or not. Seems like this is a move to give some all and slam the door in others face. What's it going to solve. If you take the whole pie it's gone no matter how many slices you cut out of it. Career watermen are going to have to get a new job whether some take all or all take all. We are not going to save any thing till we get the pots out of the water 24 hours a day 7 months a year. You can't make a commercial venture out of mother nature. The mechanizations got to come out. Go back to doing things like our fathers by hand (rewinders, potpullers, auto dippers). This is blatant discrimination. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. If there isn't enough crabs for some then there isn't enough for all. Seems like the little guys catching the boot heel of the State again so the big boys can take it all. Last time new restrictions were placed on crabs we stepped on the LCC license holders and it didn't help then why's it going to help now.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Somehow I smell a Simms in this. I see more feel good legislation coming. It all about a buck and who get them. We've tried to run the Chesapeake Bay as an industry, we raped it for years and now we've just about spent it. It may its time to stop all commercial fishing in the Bay so those who pay their tax every Friday can take a string and chicken neck to the river and catch a basket of crabs on Saturday morning.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Haven't seen any restrictions that affect big crab patterns that much. Why worry about LCC licenses that are not going to affect the crabs right now when you let potters catch 30-100 bushels a day go almost unimpacted. You need to go after the Big Guys. Are you afraid of them? Time limits will restrict everyone - the same Big Guys more than small ones - the way it should be. Most of these inactive licenses will never be made active.	
4/21/2009	Focus	No more transferring of licenses. You can't transfer a driver's license. Why can't you do it with a commercial fishing license?	
4/21/2009	Focus	No commercial licenses should be issued to out-of-state holders. Take out of state licenses now, no buy back no nothing! They don't contribute to the economy then decide what to do with MD LCCs.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Stop catching female crabs -- tell VA to do the same.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Is Virginia doing the same thing in regard to the same regulation put on the watermen?	
4/21/2009	Focus	Pro rate the fees. If the potters catch 100 bushels a day they need to pay up.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Before taking LCCs away from inactive in State residents who PAY MARYLAND TAXES.... LCCs should be taken from out of state holders , no matter what the circumstance!! (Delaware, PA, NJ)	
4/21/2009	Focus	I think they could target out of state licenses they do not pay Maryland taxes.	
4/21/2009	Focus	What about catch more rock fish and hardhead fish since we have more crabs when you fish for rich in the 70 days year. Had more crab and what do you want more crabs or fish.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Why are "career" watermen entitled to the resource that belongs to all citizens? They choose their profession and demand would determine how many watermen it would take to supply the market. If I wanted to sell firewood I couldn't go on to State lands and harvest trees -- the trees belong to all citizens of the State. Why are watermen treated so favorably? To better address the percent of harvest implement a monthly reporting system to monitor the catch and adjust seasons and limits accordingly -- for everyone -- career, recreational, and occasional license holders.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I'm not against career watermen but they are always given the advantage. Crabs, oysters, long line, size & harvest limits while the recreational fishermen is given almost nothing. 1-16.5 flounder 1 or 2 rock 45 bushels of crabs.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	In the 70s I had a commercial crab license and DNR told us we didn't need it to catch 2 bushels of crabs. Two years later, there was a license fee and then a limited amount of crabs you could catch. Now that I have an LCC, it's like you're trying to take it away from me but NEVER has anything been taken away from the commercial crab potter. 1. The Bay needs cleaning up. 2. Open rockfish season for longer periods of time :) 3. Put a tax on all commercial ship vessels and use that \$ to clean up the Bay. 4. Move a little farther south (like Saxis and Smith Island) and target peeler pots. 5. Don't put the total liability on the LCC license.	
4/21/2009	Focus	What has been the increase in latent license holders over the past several years? What would make this % increase dramatically?	
4/21/2009	Focus	This is a poorly conceived impact study concentrating on people who have not affected the harvest due to inactive usage on maybe or could D) The State's approach has already adversely affected commercial crabbers to ask our segment of a particular industry to bear all the burden is inconsiderate and grossly unfair. E) The approach has affected people which will be very difficult to regain any trust in the future -- For what it's worth!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Although there are latent crabbers, LCCs, let me suggest the current policies are lacking as noted by the current increase in crabs. There is no need to take any action against the inactive LCCs at this time. It appears the DNR is creating a problem that is a non-problem. As the LCCs that are inactive are not the ones that are overfishing the crabs.	
4/21/2009	Focus	One additional way to reduce the pressure on crabs is to adjust the catch of rockfish. These fish love to eat small crabs. When I caught a rockfish and opened the stomach they are filled with small crabs.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I agree with limiting the female catch, should have been done a long time ago. Please keep restriction and limitations on female -- this will surely benefit the entire industry.	
4/21/2009	Focus	There are numerous boats from Western Shore that set way beyond their limit of crab pots, 3,000+, this needs to stop! Sometimes these pots go 7-8 days without being tented -- there never seems to be any regulation to stop this raping of the system -- please spend some of the money that the watermen get to go after the ones who don't apply to the rules!!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Only have one TFL license per boat!!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Just because the AG's office determined that DNR has the authority doesn't mean it's so. 4,000 crabbers can afford legal council, "if deemed necessary". What does this mean? If population is up limit female harvest for all.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Put more limits on crab pots. They put out more pots than they fish in one day. 200 pots would be plenty, not 600 or 700.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Take the licenses away form the out-of-stators.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Keep all non-residents from crabbing in our waters. No female crabs for five years. Have to be a USA citizen to crab in our waters.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Recommended changes to Blue Crab Licenses: 1. No license can be sold, leased, or rented. 2. License of active Blue Crab fisherman can be passed to children and grandchildren. 4. Let current Limited Crab Harvester .50 pots keep their license. If they can't sell, lease or rent as they don't create any problems. 5. Stop the harvest of all female crabs, including peelers.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	I went to the meeting in Stevensville. I was surprised as I'm sure you were of the huge turn-out. Marylanders are very passionate about their crabbing traditions. Your department representatives answered many of my questions. I left the meeting with an informative education. Below I have listed some suggestions and thoughts from other watermen and myself: 1. Make the 1,000 or so latent license a Commercial "B" status for three years. a) These license cannot be sold or transferred. b) Put a cap of two bushel of crabs a day, males only c) Beneficiary clause for immediate family only if they want to work the water (father to son).	
4/21/2009	Focus	Potential Solutions for the declining crab industry: 1. Begin the commercial crab season one month later than the present. Instead of beginning on April 1st, move it back to May 1st. This will give many of the crabs more time to disperse from their concentrated "staging area" in the lower Bay. It will also show a significant effort at working closely with Virginia which recently took a gigantic co-operative step by ending its "dredging" process!	
4/21/2009	Focus	Make everyone that crabs give up one day (trot-liners) of crabbing on the weekend. Let everyone pick either Saturday or Sunday (but not both) as their designated day off. There are just far too many people on the Bay after them on the weekends. Whether you are a commercial crabber or a recreational crabber, you still have six other days to go crabbing. Let's end the deluge of over saturation of crabbers. In the end it will make for a more pleasant experience for all with less boats out on each day. Even the DNR won't be so overwhelmed by so many people being out at one time!	
4/21/2009	Focus	"Rockfish and crabs go hand in hand" Both species have a big impact on each other. A) Stop the ridiculous "catch and release" rockfish season which sees so many large "cows" swallow a hook and die before she lays her eggs in such places as Conowingo, near the dam. B) Increase the limit a recreational fisherman may keep in the later season. C) Increase the cost of licenses for both sport fishermen and charter boat captains with all proceeds from that increase going towards buying back some of the 6,000 or so commercial crabbing licenses now out there. Buyouts of these licenses should not be of the LCC type but of the longstanding full time crabbers as well. Set a goal of reducing the commercial crabbing licenses of about 500 to 1,000 per year until you reach the desired goal. Reducing these licenses should be done in a prudent and fair way.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Although I do agree with DNR that the number of commercial licenses should be reduced, it should be done in a different manner than proposed. Some people feel that the number should be reduced by as much as 50% with a final goal of about 3,000 total commercial crabbing licenses. It was wise that the initial idea of "freezing" some licenses was ultimately aborted!	
4/21/2009	Focus	In my opinion, any attempt to "legally" take an existing license in good standing should be done with monetary compensation to that license holder. A written "sign off" by the license holder must be mandated by the DNR for any such "fair compensation". Fair compensation: "perhaps" \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) \$500? For each year a person has held that license. A long time held license of a full time crabber would naturally be worth considerably more than a license, gear and equipment from a former crabber, say four years ago.	
4/21/2009	Focus	I am sure that money long term, full time crabbers will argue for a higher pay scale for their licenses, but one must remember that those which choose to hold on to their licenses will have much more to gain if and when the crabs come back to 1989 levels with much less commercial competition!	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Focus	Final Note: With crabs recently showing a comeback, it only makes sense to try to reduce the number of crabbers holding commercial licenses. They could indeed impact or impede in any strong comeback that may be forthcoming. However, it should be done in a mindful and fair manner to all involved!	
4/16/2009	Focus	All crab catches need to be reported - recreational and commercial. No new licenses can be issued until all frozen licenses are restored and apprenticeship crabber class are to be closed until all frozen licenses are restored.	
4/21/2009	Focus	Agree to above -- No commercial licenses issued to out-of-state license holders and more enforcement for recreational crabbers.	
4/27/2009	Insurance	If you want to cut down the harvest year, why in the world would you want to penalize license holders that don't use their licenses? A lot of families have had these licenses forever and want to pass them down or work the water full time again later on, or if laid off, cause in case you have not noticed its impossible to make a good living from the water anymore due to a number of reasons (pollution, sediment, poor management and yes, over harvests).	
4/16/2009	Insurance	I waited 2 or so years to get my license to use if needed in retirement. I'm 79 years old and still unable to retire so when and if I'm able to retire I would still like to have this option.	
4/16/2009	Insurance	I have retired and would like to keep my license.	
4/16/2009	Insurance	I'm planning to retire from work in a few years and I want to go back to crabbing. I believe we need to help in the crab population but I don't want to give up my license. I'm willing not to use them for a year or so but want them back after that.	
4/16/2009	Insurance	My overall plan due to economics of having a regular job, was to save my permit for a <u>modest</u> retirement income. GOD BLESS ALL BLUE CRABS!	
4/16/2009	Insurance	I wanted it for my retirement.	
4/21/2009	Insurance	For all the proposed options or possible options presented, there isn't really a chance for these "latent licenses". It's mostly clear that these license holders have kept these licenses valid whether it be TFL, LCC, CB3 or any other. Crabbing to most license holders is a past and part present and possibly future business. As in any business, there is skill in trade you are doing as well as the potential to continue to exercise the right to continue to own that business. Whether they are used or not, I believe that freezing someone's business, whether they are using or haven't used it lately should be the last resort. In this industry there are 100% crabbers and there have always been what are known as part-timers. Not everyone can make a complete living on the water but want to have the option if their current situation changes. I think that any option that doesn't include freezing licenses should be implemented even if its only on a temporary basis.	
4/21/2009	Insurance	Once these licenses are frozen, those people have lost something they kept for some reason. If you regulate thru catch limits or times or other means at least that can be changed back but do you think the licenses will be reissued! Never.	
4/21/2009	Insurance	I can agree with addressing unused licenses to a point -- but freezing or revoking licenses based solely upon a "latent" license is TYRANNICAL. I have kept my license over 10 years for future interests, as you never know when you need to fall back on the license.	
4/21/2009	Insurance	We all know that unused licenses will never be used 100% all at the time. But stopping people from having the option to use the license can be devastating to him if things change in his work situation.	

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Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Insurance	Some people have stopped crabbing for a number of reasons. As for myself, I've closed the business for 15 years and will be crabbing this summer full or part time. I'm only one of the unfortunate. But if my license is taken, I'll have to be the one crabbing to make a living without the license taken from me! How nice.	
21-Apr-09	Insurance	I've been paying fees for 18 years. I figured I'd get back on the water when I retire from my job.	
4/21/2009	Insurance	Will we get paid back for the years we held a license with hope of having it for our retirement?	
4/21/2009	Insurance	If a person like us has held our license since 1982, almost 30 years, why should we be punished? My family works in construction. Crabbing is our fall back plan if there is never enough \$ to make ends meet. By losing our license, this could potentially hurt our family if construction didn't give us enough work. Why should we hurt because we are of a lower socio-economic status?	
	Insurance	Since I may be retiring soon and would be able to crab again I'm hoping my license won't be taken away.	
4/21/2009	Insurance	If you take my license now, will they ever be available at retirement?	
4/21/2009	Insurance	DNR Legal Council: Please be aware that several years ago the State of Maryland enacted a "surcharge" to these licenses so that the crabs being caught could be sold to markets throughout Maryland. Any attempts to confiscate these licenses without "fair compensation" and a written "sign off" from that license holder could very easily result in what could be considered justifiable litigation towards the DNR and the State of Maryland for whom they represent. It could also be very easily be deemed as that of an adverse impact on that license holder's immediate and future livelihood. It could also be very easily very deemed as that of an adverse impact to any long standing beneficiary as "stated and updated annually on the licensing contract."	
4/27/2009	Notice	The final LCC proposal should have an extended time to implement, i.e. take effect 2012.	
4/16/2009	Notice	Notify and inform all LCC as you are doing for several years and not freeze all of a sudden	
4/20/2009	Notice	After (latent efforts) are known go two years before a freeze on LCC to (check?) inactivate.	
4/20/2009	Notice	I recognize the problem and can understand what could possibly happen should all the inactive become active. And not being a career waterman I would not desire to affect their ability to make a living. However, I do not think it is fair for my LCC license to be taken after having it for 20 years. I do not believe all the inactive or even a small portion would become active. Why has DNR waited to the last minute to address this issue, after reviewing the facts this has been a problem for sometime.	
4/27/2009	Other	I guess, as an LCC license holder, I'm between two competing factors: the large commercial operation and the recreational crabber. I don't seem to have had a voice in this discussion up to this point and now that the car is going over the cliff, you want me to drive. Not the best of options.	
4/16/2009	Other	This is a very poor meeting a lot of crabs (crabbers?) can not even read or write.	
4/16/2009	Other	General Comment: Great concept for education and public input. Thank you. One thing missing: water quality! Maybe have another poster that acknowledges the water quality issue, and describe that improving it is part of the long-term solution, but managing the fishery is more immediate and will always be part of the scenario.	
4/16/2009	Other	On the subject of State and Legislative authority, remember another election is coming up.	

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4/16/2009	Other	Question 2 - communication - during the past 3 weeks I have called DNR several times, answered by voicemail, left messages and a return number. Got no return call.	
4/16/2009	Other	People today don't trust the government or DNR.	
4/16/2009	Other	I didn't like walking around reading this board. I don't know why you didn't do anything in 2000 when things were going bad.	
4/16/2009	Other	The DNR is taking a license that is already a limited entry, and trying to make it limited again.	
4/20/2009	Other	The DNR is just using the latent licenses as another excuse to control and put the watermen out of business. There is no way that a large amount of people are all going to start crabbing in one year. If DNR would enforce laws already in effect these would not be a problem in the first place. The worst thing the DNR has done is to take the large patrol boats off the water on a daily basis. I was limited to 1 bushel of female crabs after Sept 1st last year - you cannot go crabbing and catch 1 bushel and even pay for bait. The ability to make a dollar ended Sept 1st. This is <u>stupid</u> . This is the greatest form of discrimination!!!	
4/20/2009	Other	Dear Sir, I would like to consider all the options expressed by the Dept (DNR) today, and would like the right to express opinion at a later date.	
4/20/2009	Other	Please re-think the format of these meetings. You have good info but I can read it right from the PowerPoint.	
4/21/2009	Other	Pollution. I know the State and many other organizations have studied this. I am no scientist by any means. But this I can tell you. I visited a 94 year old woman outside of Deale, MD. She was living in the waterfront house she was raised in. She commented that the creek out back used to be full of fish, soft crabs, and bay grasses all year. Watermen used to curse trying to keep their boats free of bay grasses. Then there was an event. Within two years of this event, the following happened: No fish, No crabs, Bay grasses wouldn't even grow. This creek is now barren and has been since the two years following the event. And... the event was... The state approved Sewage Treatment Plant in Shady Side, MD. On a side note, a friend recently went to the Potomac River. He said that the water was clear, he could see grass, and the river was a 180° turn around from what it used to be. The difference? The sewage treatment plant uses UV light instead of chemicals. Please feel free to contact me on any of the previously mentioned issues.	
4/21/2009	Other	Vote Republican!! Yeah!	
4/21/2009	Other	If frozen do I still have to pay for my license?	
4/21/2009	Other	Would you not miss the income from the dormant LCC licenses?	
4/21/2009	Other	I know most DNR police were derailed to VP Dick Cheney's house instead of patrolling the waters which allowed these people to illegally harvest over limits. Had this issue been left alone the 4,000 license holders would probably have never given this issue a second thought.	
4/21/2009	Other	To all the people who feel their rights have been, or about to be, violated by this, VOTE REPUBLICAN!!! Maryland Democrats love the ability to take rights away.	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Other	I agree with the goal to keep career watermen active -- they are the ones who work enormous amounts of hours -- year round to provide for their families. My husband was a watermen for the majority of his adult life and helped other watermen in his juvenile and teen years. He contended with the effects of hurricanes, the Bay on occasion being frozen over and the decline and virtual absence of bay grasses. He managed to provide for a family for four and taught his 2 sons respect of the Bay. My husband died at the age of 64 and left good memories and an honorable legacy to his sons. I would also like you to know that in the course of our marriage, I helped him with the crab pots, the trot line, sewed funnels for eel pots, and in general wanted to help and be with him as much as I could.	
4/21/2009	Other	Thank you for presenting the information. I hope you get many responses, and have an open mind to opinions. I would like to see the health of the bay be on a timetable for specific increases in viability -- accountable results. The watermen is one part, but there are other influences.	
4/21/2009	Other	Career waterman -- person who is rich off the land allowed to rape the Bay of females!	
4/21/2009	Other	Shangs favors: Picking houses, crab restaurants who can finance groups of people and control them and prices such as WAC minions years ago -- you end up working for a company! This will eliminate independent watermen and individual waterman.	
4/21/2009	Other	If the government gets rid of all the crab licenses then we won't need a DNR.	
4/21/2009	Other	I was told that an LCC is a privilege to have just like a driver's license. That was said by a speaker here. That's a joke! I pay for an LCC annually, unlike a driver's license. I work off an LCC, not a driver's license. When you break the law, your driver's license is taken away. IT SHOULD BE THE SAME AS A LCC!	
4/21/2009	Other	WE WORK ON THE WATER AND WE SHOULD KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE AND THERE IS NO LAW IN TALBOT COUNTY!	
4/21/2009	Other	(Drawing of crab) YOU'RE MAKING ME CRABBY!	
4/21/2009	Other	See attached letter, pages 1, 2 & 3. In regards to how I think it should be done. This is of "my opinion" only and of course the DNR will ultimately decide on which course of action it should take.	
4/21/2009	Other	To the DNR and whomever else it may concern, Recently the DNR has proposed "freezing" or temporarily suspending one's "legal rights" to crabbing if they carried only a certain type of MD crabbing license. The ultimate goal of this idea was to "permanently" revoke and reduce the number of "only these certain types of crabbing licenses." This suggestion presented in its original form was both fundamentally wrong and ill-advised!	
4/27/2009	Population	I voluntarily have walked away from the water. This is because it is more important for me to have my licenses. But possibly using them one day? I don't use my licenses because I consciously want crabs to be abundant! I drive one hour each way to work. I have a job in a time when a job is a true blessing. The life I left on the water was what my father and his father did.	
4/16/2009	Population	For years I waited for the crabs to pick up and get better. I kept my license up. I could not crab because there were no crabs to catch and this cost me money.	
4/21/2009	Population	Most latent license holders have voluntarily suspended crabbing since the population plummeted in the late 90's. This was the spirit of conservation. The large commercial crabbers did not step back and even benefited from this voluntary inactivity. Now we are to be punished for helping them?	
4/21/2009	Population	The reason I didn't use my license was there were no crabs to catch in the area I crab.	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Population	The DNR should take into consideration that with crab populations at an all time low, many crabbers are voluntarily backing off in their personal effort to help the crabs rebound. By abstaining from crabbing in the short term they are hoping for a better future. These crabbers continue to purchase their "licensing rights" with no personal gain for themselves in the short term and "Only the Promise of Hope" in the long term! I ask of you, should these people who have legally invested in their hopes for the future be rewarded by the DNR by possibly having their licenses suspended or revoked?	
4/27/2009	Recreational Restriction	Poster 15 - This illustration can also be used to demonstrate recreational crabbers' harvest, since there is no accountability!	
4/27/2009	Recreational Restriction	Accountability for recreational crabbers Old Dominion U study stated that MD's recreational crabber harvest could be as high as 30%. All recreational crabbing licenses have mandatory harvest reports. How about a 2-3 year recreational crabbing ban. Recreational crabbing boat licenses were up last year, a 5.4% increase.	
4/27/2009	Recreational Restriction	No increase in enforcement is addressed in the program. Recreational crabbers (I can not speak on the location) in the Patuxent River. Crab anytime day or night, seven days a week. Legal crab sizes mean nothing to them.	
4/27/2009	Recreational Restriction	Tell Gov. O'Malley, ban recreational crabbing for 3 years while the STATE concentrates on water quality improvements.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	*Recreational crab harvest. Page #33 states, <u>NO Recreational Harvest of Female Hard or PEELER CRAB.</u> *Page #34 Recreational crabbing daily catch and possession limits states, licensed boat 2 or more licenses on board, can keep 2 bushels hard crabs and <u>2 dozen peeler</u> or soft crabs.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	Make recreational license holders report catch	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	Recreational crab license should increase for all to \$30.00 a year and this money put toward crab grass in the bay (SAV) to help crab's live and hide while soft. Recreational crabber's limit 1 bushel max.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	LCC may be the largest commercial license category but does their catch represent the highest impact on fishery, Potters catch many more crabs than trot lines.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	Freeze Recreational Crabbers.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	If the Recreational catch is known, restrict it. The unused LCC catch is not known if the idea is to reduce harvest.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	DNR should visit people on piers and bridges. (South Baltimore, for one.) Half probably don't have a license. And I personally have seen buckets and baskets with 3 and 4 inch crabs. Male and female.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	Concern your effort in the huge recreational latent effort with a possible 170,000+ recreational crabbers.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	CONCENTRATE ON THE RECREATION.	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	License all recreational crabbers	
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	Charge more for recreational licenses.	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/16/2009	Recreational Restriction	On Recreational: 1. Look for ways for their catch to be reported, possibly the same way the commercial crabbers do? Or a call in number - 24/7? and limit their gear? ("This is so and so, I caught 2 bushel this week, etc. etc.)	
4/20/2009	Recreational Restriction	Why have recreational license for out-of-state people. How long have the 4,000 latent licenses been not used and why would there be a big impact now?	
4/20/2009	Recreational Restriction	Recreation crabbers catch more than 10% of the harvest! Spend some time and see what goes on. They can take 1000 ft line and put the same amount of bait on as I do with 1,000 yard lines.	
	Recreational Restriction	P.S. You have no idea of the recreational catch, which should be addressed first.	
4/20/2009	Recreational Restriction	Yes, recreational crabbers should be checked by DNR better because they sure get their limit, plus more.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Recreational crabber licenses should be higher cost. The same crabbers are taking more then their limit and should be held accountable.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Out-of-state rec. crabbers bring nothing to MD except beer cans and trash. They take crabs back to PA and DE, while MD crabbers are being punished.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Stop taking female sponge crabs! Put more restrictions on recreational crabbing please!	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Shorter recreational season. This would create more stable market for commercial fishermen and retail suppliers.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Having not used my LCC license but sport crabbing occasionally throughout the summer it amazes me to see how many so-called recreational crabbers abuse the system. They lay out beyond legal times, use more line than allowed and catch as many crabs as they can. Lots of these crabbers are from out of state. Is there not a way for more enforcement of your laws. Last year I only saw a DNR boat on patrol once while crabbing on the Wye River. I believe recreational taking is a lot higher than estimates.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	You also need to restrict recreational crabbers, especially out-of-stators, before you freeze LCCs.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	If crab numbers are so bad first close the fishery to all out-of-state recreational crabbers then enforce the closure	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Make recreational crabbers report.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Cut out recreational crabbing first if necessary.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Out-of-state recreational crabbers. This is an enforcement issue that needs to be addressed. No one is going to report a catch other than what they are required. In this time of economic uncertainty, more DNR officers should be put to work in the field and not in air-conditioned offices. Perhaps more should be hired.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	How about some recreation enforcement??? There's a thought!!! Stop nodding/shaking your head and agreeing and actually motivate those lazy folks to do their job. It shouldn't be to difficult in the Wye/Kent narrows to set citation records. Practice what you preach!	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	More focus on recreational crabbers (no numbers of harvest can be determined).	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Freeze out of state recreational licenses. Go back 10 years looking latent LCCs.	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	You talk a lot about recreational crabbers, what about (out-of-state recreational crabbers)? And recreational crabbers are not limited on time as commercial crabbers they go out in the morning and get them "two" 2 bushel then go back in the evening and get 2 more bushel in (1 one) hour before daylight and (8 hours) after daylight and the majority of recreational crabbers don't know what a buckram crab is or sponge crab. Just stopping the out of state crabbers would 3 mill lbs that is a good start.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	At Wye Mills recreational crabbers will get (2) bushel cooked and go out and catch more crabs.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	The DNR needs to apply more pressure on Recreational crabbers and reduce effort to drive watermen out of business. Rec. crabbers wipe the Wye River out. I see rec. crabbers going 5 or 6 days a week. How does a recreational crabber eat 12 bushels a week?	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Same in Tred Avon. I see lots of recreational crabbers from Del, NJ and Penn taking a bushel or 2 every day, and they turn and sell them.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	I have spent thru the years +/- 1,000 for my license in order to have a license when I retire. Besides Wednesdays crabbing is heaven without competition from recreational. How about not being able to catch eels in eelpots. I don't have to make a living from crabbing, but if they are running I like to be able to keep more than one bushel.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Rec. licenses for out-of-stators should be \$1,000 or more. More enforcement for recreational crabbers. Taking little crabs, not obeying time limits.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	So, let me try to understand... the "POTENTIAL" that I might start crabbing again soon is a problem for the crabs. & yet -- I contribute each year to maintain my license! Meanwhile, the FACT that the fees for Joe Blow & other states (NJ, DE, etc.) are so low they can take whatever they want! Give me a break!	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Cancel the distribution of recreational licenses they catch more than you think.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	If this is a public issue why are there NO efforts to limit the number of recreational licenses each year, commencing with limiting OUT OF STATE.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	I think the target should be the in and out of state recreation license. Both put over in MD waters -- 3 or 4 to boat w/ each having a recreational license -- taking 1 bushel per person -- seems to me -- that more than equals what an honest person w/ a license would be taking -- they, the out of state don't care what they take, male, female, big, small. Listen to the talk around the ramp -- recreational license persons are supposed to be for personal use -- ride up the road -- see how many are for sale. Is it fair to take from a person that has been supportive forever or worry about the new man that wants to make a buck -- legal or otherwise.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Licensed recreational crabbers be limited to one (1) bushel per boat, no matter how many licenses on board.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	When I received the DNR proposal to freeze the latent LCC License for non-use in hopes of helping the declining crab population, I was totally baffled. Why were people like myself who were not harvesting crabs being restricted? In some areas of the bay you can literally walk on crab buoys. Weather permitting, there are thousands of recreational crabbers (many out of state) taking their heavy toll.	
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Put a cap on out of state recreational crabbers. Why put restrictions on Maryland residents but not have any regulations on people from out of state? If you freeze my license, I will get a recreational license. I am still catching crabs and nothing is solved.	

Responses to Comments Received at the Blue Crab Open House Events, April 2009

Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Recreational Restriction	Find ways to reduce the harvest of female crabs. Perhaps only harvest them in July or August and set minimum amounts which can be taken. Completely ban all recreational crabbers from keeping female crabs. The more females that survive in the end will result in stronger gains in the future.	
4/16/2009	Review	I think you should at least contact persons with latent licenses to see why they haven't used their crab license. I really hope you guys aren't blowing smoke up me and next year you call my catch underutilized.	
4/16/2009	Review	The fact that DNR does not have the resources to review a case by case basis is a DNR problem not a crabber's - get more resources.	
4/16/2009	Review	I suggest a formal survey to each license holder to try to reveal intent to become active - then re-evaluate the impact.	
4/16/2009	Review	If the LCC licenses are frozen or bought or taken they should be reviewed by each case.	
4/16/2009	Review	Send each and every latent license holder a survey-questionnaire regarding their future intent to crab.	
4/20/2009	Review	All licenses should be reviewed on an individual basis.	
4/21/2009	Review	Can they look at who had their LCC longer? I got mine when I was 8 and now I am 20, so I should have advantage over holders that have had their LCC for less than me!	
4/21/2009	Review	This open house convinced me that DNR is making a good effort to address the problem. Previously it seemed arbitrary. Here's an outline of a rough idea. It addresses the major concerns. Other "solutions" (B) can be incorporated such as buybacks and voluntary freezes or other incentives to "voluntarily" surrender licenses. 1. Freeze all latent licenses. 2. Provide for a partial reactivation -- with notice -- to avoid the fear of permanent loss. 3. Phase in catch limits for reactivations, so as to control harvest, yet to allow some crabbing by LCC. 4. After a period of time, the LCC will gradually become more active. This will not affect "career" watermen. It will allow frozen license holders to have a procedure to become active, thus reducing adverse actual and psychological impact. It will allow control of total catch. Notice period should not be too long, but long enough to assess impact of projected catch.	
4/21/2009	Review	Look how long they been inactive and limit them on a case-by-case basis.	
4/21/2009	Review	Let the current commercial crabbers keep their harvest quota. Put a limit on the latent licenses that become active. Latent licenses must inform DNR before becoming active again, 1 yr. In advance.	
4/21/2009	Review	As for the increased expense -- deal with it... it will be far more expensive fighting all the lawsuits for taking a marketable asset (license) with a fair market value of 8 - 10 K x 4,000? You can do the math... then add the legal and court costs...	
4/21/2009	Review	There should be a medical waiver for those LCC license holders that have to take time off to incapacitating injury or illness. They should not lose their license should their injury or sickness be a temporary one.	
4/21/2009	Review	I think a lot of people have held on to their licenses as a back up for lost jobs etc. Holding these licenses and paying each year has provided funds to support the industry and establish catch limits to stabilize the crab population. Given these reasons I think that if licenses are needed to support a family or help support a family that the DNR should review such cases as needed. You must remember that the crabber was not asked to pay for renewal when he chose not to use his licenses. But now he may lose his chance to use them when he really needs them.	

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Blue Crab Open House -- Response to Comments			
Contact Name/Date	Category	Comment	Response
4/21/2009	Review	Regarding active and non-active LCC the short 4 year period is more than sufficient the latest paper work from DNR simply stated: If you do not fill out the paper work or your catch report you could possibly lose your license. So what is the concern. I hope my report made it by mail. Also anyone 55 or older should not lose their privilege. 62 and over no brainer. Leave them alone because you have not updated since 1972 maybe you did not do your job exactly right.	
4/21/2009	Transfer	If people gave up their license you would only re-issue them to someone who would probably only do more harm than good.	
4/16/2009	Transfer	I think DNR should leave well enough alone! And if the military duty is an example, well I put in my time for my country also! Why take my license and give it to an apprentice to use? Who will take crabs from the bay. Take my LCC and I guess I'll become an outlaw.	
4/20/2009	Transfer	With 3,000 TFL inactive the TFL has a 15 to 1 impact over LCCs. The TFL license should be addressed at the same time a LCC is. (Politics aside) Fair is Fair.	

Symbol	Title	Description	Number of comments
Foc	Focus	Comments addressing the focus of the commercial crab regulation, eg: "Why LCC crabbers when x has a bigger impact." (Note: comments addressing recreational crabbing are placed in Rec)	194
Dat	Data	Comments expressing doubt about DNR's scientific figures, e.g. "Another survey said x, when DNR says y".	31
EC	Extenuating Circumstances	Comments which contend that latent effort on the part of LCC holders is not by choice.	20
Pop	Population	Comments which contend that latent effort has been due to concerns about the crab population.	5
Ent	Entitlement	Comments which contend that LCC license holders are entitled to forego crabbing, because they paid for the license.	13
Not	Notice	Comments which contend that insufficient notice was given before licenses were frozen.	4
Trns	Transfer	Comments claiming (erroneously) that DNR is taking inactive licenses and giving them to active crabbers	3
Rec	Recreational Restriction	Comments contending that recreational crabbing licenses should be rolled back or restricted further instead of freezing inactive LCC licenses.	48
Rev	Review	Comments suggesting that DNR freeze LCC licenses on a case-by-case basis.	14
Emp	Employment	Comments objecting to the license freeze on the basis that the crabbers are not able to be consistently active because they hold a second job.	7
Cult	Culture	Comments objecting to the license freeze on a cultural basis (e.g. crabbing is a way of life, crabbing is a family tradition, license is kept for family's use, etc.)	12
Ins	Insurance	Comments contending that inactive licenses were being held as a fallback in case of a job loss or depletion of retirement funds.	17
Imp	Improvement	Comments objecting to the license freeze because the crab population has begun to recover.	0
Other	Other	Comments that don't fit anywhere else (e.g.: "Vote Republican", non-text comments)	27
TOTAL COMMENTS:			395
Individual commenters by site:			
Earleigh Heights			93
Fruitland			41
Easton			114
Solomons			15
Total			263