

# BE CLAW-SOME! CRAB SMART, FROM THE START

Steps for responsible recreational crabbing in Delaware.  
[DESEAGRANT.ORG/DERELICT-CRAB-POTS](http://DESEAGRANT.ORG/DERELICT-CRAB-POTS)



## **PLAN** Ahead

Know the tides to avoid losing gear or getting stuck. Watch the weather for wind, storms or rough water. Follow local rules on gear, seasons, and size limits to stay safe and legal.

# 01



## **MARK** Your Location

Use white bullet floats that are puncture resistant as required by Delaware regulations. Mark your pot's location in the water using your phone's map app or your onboard GPS.

# 02



## **SECURE** It Right

Use enough sinking line for the water depth, 3x water depth, and tie it using a bowline knot securing rope ends with zip ties. Make sure your trap or pot is weighted so it stays in place.

# 03



## **CHECK** Often

Retrieve gear within 72 hours—daily is best to prevent bycatch deaths and loss of your gear. Watch the forecast for storms, and remove your gear from the water before the storm hits.

# 04



## **LABEL** What's Yours

Ensure your name and address are written on white bullet floats, as required by Delaware regulations. Many crabbers also attach brightly colored floats or flagging tape for quick ID.

# 05



## **AVOID** High Traffic Areas

Crab pot lines can be mistakenly severed or dragged by boats. Stay away from navigational channels and shellfish leases.

# 06

