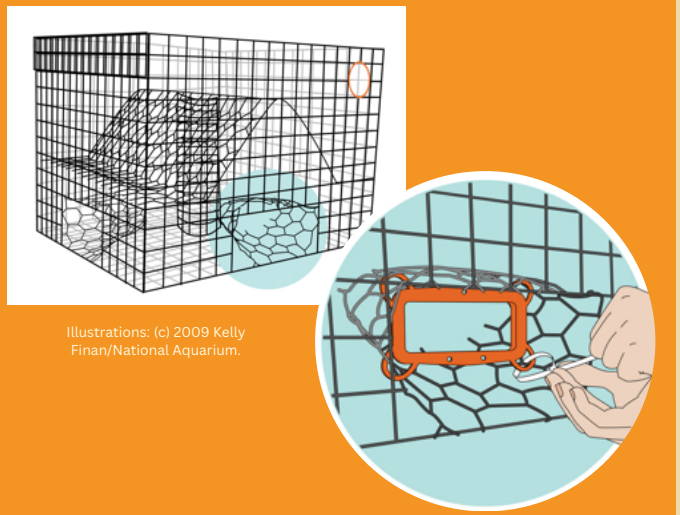
Using BRDs

Photo by Melanie Thorn

- Little to no impact on crab catch
- Reduces bycatch
- Prevents terrapins from drowning in the pots
- Conserves wildlife

Attaching a BRD



Illustrations: (c) 2009 Kelly Finan/National Aquarium.

Insert BRD into all funnel (openings) on the commercial style crab pot. Secure with cable-ties on each corner.

How Can You Help?

- Always use BRDs
- Follow state regulations regarding licenses, usages, and crabbing methods.
- Tell friends, family, and other crabbers about BRDs and the benefits for conservation.
- Rig your pots properly using a sinkable line, commercial float, weighted bottom, and biodegradable escape panel.
- Sign our pledge and learn more at BRD-Zone.net

Photo by Melanie Thorn

Photo by Project Terrapin

Bycatch Reduction Devices

(BRDs)

Drowning in crab pots is a major threat to Diamondback Terrapin populations. Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) are inserted on crab pot funnels to prevent terrapins from entering.

Check out BRD-Zone.net for more info

What are BRDs?

BRD's are preventative measures. When attached to crab pot funnels (openings), they help reduce bycatch or non-targeted species from being caught in the pots, like terrapins. Due to their slow life history and late maturity at 8-10 years old, the drowning of adult terrapins in pots impacts the overall population.

Photo by Melanie Thorn

The height of the BRD prevents terrapins from entering crab pots, and does not prevent crabs from entering the pot. Crabs walk sideways and are not impacted by the size of BRDs.

BRD Facts

Studies confirm that BRDs are effective at saving wildlife, and do not discourage blue crab populations. BRDs have little impact on the size and number of blue crabs found in crab pots.

Photo by wpopp via Wikimedia Commons

Most crab pots are set in areas where terrapins reside. Terrapins are attracted to crab pots because of bait and curiosity. This increases the risk of accidental bycatch. Crab pots with BRDs prevent terrapins from being captured and drowning.

Photo by VIMS

Marine Debris
(Ghost Pots)

Marine Debris is trash in our oceans and waterways. Plastics, textiles, rubber and derelict fishing gear are examples of marine debris. These discarded items can impact wildlife, habitats, and people.

Photo by Project Terrapin

When crab pots are lost in our waterways, they become known as ghost pots. These ghost pots continue to catch crabs and other bycatch. This can negatively impact crab and terrapin populations. Lost pots will happen, but you can take extra precautions like rigging your pot properly using a sinkable line and a commercial float.

Rig-It-Right!

Photo by Project Terrapin