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1950

Records of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab fishery

Willard A. Van Engel

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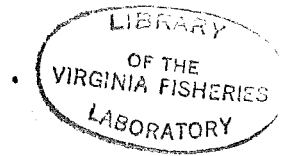
Recommended Citation

Van Engel, W. A. (1950) Records of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab fishery. Special scientific report (Virginia Institute of Marine Science); no. 5. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary. <https://doi.org/10.21220/V5WK56>

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Records of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Fishery.*

W. A. Van Engel ✓
Virginia Fisheries Laboratory
16 January 1950



The aim of this publication is to compile in a compact form for ready reference numerous data pertinent to the blue crab fishery of Virginia and Maryland. The need for such a compilation was thought to exist when an attempt was made to evaluate the usefulness of those data in determinations of indices of past abundance, and it was realized that many publications had to be referred to in order to cover the field even partially.

At the present time no attempt is made to indicate the limitations of the data or to estimate their usefulness.

The sources of "data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service" are the numerous reports published under the titles "Fishery Industries of the United States" and "Fishery Statistics of the United States", while "data from Commission of Fisheries of Virginia" refers to extracts made by the author from the files of the Commission.

* Special Report from the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory, No. 5. (Prepared for limited distribution.)

Maryland Crab Catch*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1880	1,166,667	46,850	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1887(2)	2,757,638	36,969	1,636,530	133,788	4,394,168	170,757
1888(2)	2,674,675	37,438	2,208,829	161,331	4,883,504	198,769
1890	2,388,099	31,723	4,056,110	228,690	6,444,209	260,413
1891	2,776,898	37,460	4,828,872	266,256	7,605,770	303,716
1897	5,333,316	39,949	4,115,879	177,637	9,449,195	217,586
1901	9,824,793	85,884	4,303,582	202,563	14,128,375	288,447
1904	12,665,282	168,996	5,732,865	189,851	18,398,147	358,847
1908	12,786,000	124,000	7,587,000	195,000	20,373,000	319,000
1915	22,491,675	335,375	7,602,207	329,276	30,093,882	664,651
1916	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1920	5,165,703	248,160	3,897,271	494,784	9,062,974	742,944
1924(3)	7,666,409	(1)	2,083,263	(1)	9,749,672	(1)
1925	7,321,116	303,507	2,325,245	264,276	9,646,361	567,783

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(1) Figures not available.

(2) Maryland catch exclusive of Potomac River.

(3) O. E. Sette and R. H. Fiedler. 1925. A survey of the condition of the crab fisheries of the Chesapeake Bay. Special Memorandum 1607-14, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Maryland Crab Catch*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1920	5,165,703	248,160	3,897,271	494,784	9,062,974	742,944
1925	7,321,116	303,507	2,325,245	264,276	9,646,361	567,783
1929	25,455,130	469,720	2,644,548	329,849	28,099,678	799,569
1930	31,625,767	529,005	5,313,016	455,166	36,938,783	984,171
1931	29,930,550	415,588	3,910,610	286,196	33,841,160	701,784
1932	29,399,178	291,130	3,540,253	227,674	32,939,431	518,804
1933	26,648,100	331,747	3,449,029	238,401	30,097,129	570,148
1934	13,620,900	274,734	2,288,800	215,204	15,909,700	489,938
1935	17,264,800	352,522	2,556,600	229,535	19,821,400	582,057
1936	13,294,200	313,595	2,268,900	199,286	15,563,100	512,881
1937	16,198,300	393,304	2,514,100	211,196	18,712,400	604,500
1938	20,699,100	385,230	2,898,400	224,760	23,597,500	609,990
1939	24,062,600	439,521	3,233,700	269,892	27,296,300	709,413
1940	15,031,400	347,255	1,790,700	162,225	16,822,100	509,480
1941	11,975,400	406,502	836,300	107,125	12,811,700	513,627
1942	14,048,400	493,892	1,645,300	234,132	15,693,700	728,024
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	17,155,100	861,420	1,112,200	366,460	18,267,300	1,227,880
1945	18,470,000	1,134,278	1,700,500	594,760	20,170,500	1,729,038
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Virginia Crab Catch*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1880	2,139,200	32,088	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1887(2)	626,820	15,479	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1888(2)	956,843	24,669	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1890	2,584,794	28,210	440,310	26,054	3,025,104	54,264
1891	2,208,071	32,683	585,956	29,379	2,794,027	62,062
1897	5,331,398	28,331	1,068,116	39,914	6,399,514	68,245
1901	6,113,277	52,863	1,288,424	65,972	7,401,701	118,835
1904	10,356,052	179,575	1,910,654	92,909	12,266,706	272,484
1908	23,001,000	239,000	2,082,000	87,000	25,083,000	326,000
1915	18,765,148	242,754	1,484,238	74,402	20,249,386	317,156
1916(3)	16,343,010	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1920	12,465,342	401,295	1,171,737	164,269	13,637,079	565,564
1924(4)	14,462,490	(1)	621,606	(1)	15,084,096	(1)
1925	18,531,994	523,733	1,422,250	157,981	19,954,244	681,714

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(1) Figures not available.

(2) Virginia catch exclusive of the Potomac and James Rivers.

(3) E. P. Churchill, Jr. The conservation of the blue crab of Chesapeake Bay. Manuscript.

(4) O. E. Sette and R. H. Fiedler. 1925. A survey of the condition of the crab fisheries of the Chesapeake Bay. Special Memorandum 1607-14, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Virginia Crab Catch*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1920	12,465,342	401,295	1,171,737	164,269	13,637,079	565,564
1925	18,531,994	523,733	1,422,250	157,981	19,954,244	681,714
1929	30,377,626	564,539	1,700,200	103,790	32,077,826	668,329
1930	28,939,870	543,056	2,881,000	195,005	31,820,870	738,061
1931	28,963,130	389,413	1,712,400	101,791	30,675,530	491,204
1932	27,024,045	290,821	1,549,061	91,810	28,573,106	382,631
1933	23,911,375	283,898	2,067,957	143,351	25,979,332	427,249
1934	22,516,000	464,044	1,370,300	95,982	23,886,300	560,026
1935	19,762,900	488,699	1,449,000	155,522	21,211,900	644,221
1936	26,137,800	573,180	1,969,500	218,866	28,107,300	792,046
1937	27,927,500	565,052	2,475,300	224,915	30,402,800	789,967
1938	28,690,400	486,098	2,782,600	211,179	31,473,000	697,277
1939	26,967,100	483,752	2,783,000	175,907	29,750,100	659,659
1940	23,016,500	489,789	1,977,200	148,286	24,993,700	638,075
1941	15,716,700	456,906	1,709,500	217,017	17,426,200	673,923
1942	18,644,000	539,091	1,445,300	130,336	20,089,300	669,427
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	23,928,800	1,281,931	2,422,400	637,011	26,351,200	1,918,942
1945	18,819,800	1,130,735	1,831,700	630,710	20,651,500	1,761,445
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Maryland and Virginia Crab Catch*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1880	3,305,867	78,938	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1887(2)	3,384,458	52,448	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1888(2)	3,631,518	62,107	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1890	4,972,893	59,933	4,496,420	254,744	9,469,313	314,677
1891	4,984,969	70,143	5,414,828	295,635	10,399,797	365,778
1897	10,664,714	68,280	5,183,995	217,551	15,848,709	285,831
1901	15,938,070	138,747	5,592,006	268,535	21,530,076	407,282
1904	23,021,334	348,571	7,643,519	282,760	30,664,853	631,331
1908	35,787,000	363,000	9,669,000	282,000	45,456,000	645,000
1915	41,256,823	578,129	9,086,445	403,678	50,343,268	981,807
1916(3)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
1920	17,631,045	649,455	5,069,008	659,053	22,700,053	1,308,508
1924(4)	22,128,899	(1)	2,704,869	(1)	24,833,768	(1)
1925	25,853,110	827,240	3,747,495	422,257	29,600,605	1,249,497

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(1) Figures not available.

(2) Maryland catch exclusive of Potomac River. Virginia catch exclusive of Potomac and James Rivers.

(3) E. P. Churchill, Jr. The conservation of the blue crab of Chesapeake Bay. Manuscript.

(4) O. E. Sette and R. H. Fiedler. 1925. A survey of the condition of the crab fisheries of the Chesapeake Bay. Special Memorandum 1607-14, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Maryland and Virginia Crab Catch*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1920	17,631,045	649,455	5,069,008	659,053	22,700,053	1,308,508
1925	25,853,110	827,240	3,747,495	422,257	29,600,605	1,249,497
1929	55,832,756	1,034,259	4,344,748	433,639	60,177,504	1,467,898
1930	60,565,637	1,072,061	8,194,016	650,171	68,759,653	1,722,232
1931	58,893,680	805,001	5,623,010	387,987	64,516,690	1,192,988
1932	56,423,223	581,951	5,089,314	319,457	61,512,537	901,435
1933	50,559,475	615,645	5,516,986	381,752	56,076,461	997,397
1934	36,136,900	738,778	3,659,100	311,186	39,796,000	1,049,964
1935	37,027,700	841,221	4,005,600	385,057	41,033,300	1,226,278
1936	39,432,000	886,775	4,238,400	418,152	43,670,400	1,304,927
1937	44,125,800	958,356	4,989,400	436,111	49,115,200	1,394,467
1938	49,389,500	871,328	5,681,000	435,939	55,070,500	1,307,267
1939	51,029,700	923,273	6,016,700	445,799	57,046,400	1,369,072
1940	38,047,900	837,044	3,767,900	310,511	41,815,800	1,147,555
1941	27,692,100	863,408	2,545,800	324,142	30,237,900	1,187,550
1942	32,692,400	1,032,983	3,090,600	364,468	35,783,300	1,397,451
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	41,083,900	2,143,350	3,534,600	1,003,471	44,618,500	3,146,822
1945	37,289,800	2,265,013	3,532,200	1,225,470	40,822,000	3,490,483
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Maryland Crab Catch*

Year	Hard Crabs		Soft Crabs and Peelers		Total Pounds
	Barrels	Pounds (1)	Number	Pounds (2)	
1939	246,967	24,696,700	12,924,376	3,231,094	27,927,794
1940	176,696	17,669,600	7,129,531	1,782,383	19,451,983
1941	113,365	11,336,500	3,339,431	834,858	12,171,358
1942	129,037	12,903,700	6,602,057	1,650,514	14,554,214
1943	132,787	13,278,700	2,967,827	741,957	14,020,657
1944	161,916	16,191,600	3,885,454	971,363	17,162,963
1945	179,696	17,969,600	6,277,300	1,569,325	19,538,925
1946	254,322	25,432,200	9,736,945	2,434,236	27,866,436
1947	250,932	25,093,200	12,319,558	3,079,889	28,173,089
1948					
1949					
1950					

* From estimates and records collected by local inspectors of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and compiled by J. R. E. Turpin, Seafood Auditor.

(1) At 100 pounds per barrel.

(2) At 4 crabs per pound.

Maryland line, with baits or snoods*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of lines	Number of fishermen on boats and shore	
								Regular	Casual
1920	4,572,808	205,371	16,717	4,497	4,589,525	209,868	-	-	-
1925	6,599,044	276,698	68,340	7,599	6,667,384	284,297	-	-	-
1929	24,013,540	441,996	-	-	24,013,540	441,996	1,408	1,193	146
1930	30,315,632	505,730	-	-	30,315,632	505,730	1,510	1,317	160
1931	29,015,540	403,141	-	-	29,015,540	403,141	1,560	1,491	55
1932	27,071,510	263,488	16,625	1,156	27,088,135	264,644	1,227	983	268
1933	25,543,900	317,945	-	-	25,543,900	317,945	1,547	1,180	127
1934	13,010,800	262,532	-	-	13,010,800	262,532	1,531	1,088	180
1935	17,014,000	346,241	283,300	19,564	17,360,241	365,805	1,731	1,279	131
1936	13,229,200	311,970	269,600	23,485	13,498,800	335,455	1,881	1,463	155
1937	16,050,800	389,617	262,900	21,891	16,313,700	411,508	1,586	1,213	163
1938	20,529,100	381,830	249,600	20,879	20,778,700	402,709	1,766	1,249	222
1939	23,902,900	436,327	297,700	21,847	23,200,600	458,174	1,851	1,161	362
1940	14,737,400	340,358	170,600	17,291	14,908,000	357,649	1,695	1,073	268
1941	11,625,400	394,752	156,400	19,085	11,781,800	413,837	1,296	770	273
1942	13,808,400	484,292	59,000	8,949	13,867,400	493,241	1,128	568	245
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	13,913,100	696,860	141,000	36,360	14,054,100	733,220	1,078	907	181
1945	12,234,000	755,132	105,100	36,735	12,339,100	791,867	1,520	1,331	225

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Maryland Dip Nets*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of nets	Number of fishermen on boats and shore	
								Regular	Casual
1920	400,886	29,334	1,415,810	187,924	1,816,696	217,258	-	-	-
1925	425,525	15,205	1,264,225	143,700	1,689,750	158,905	-	-	-
1929	502,570	9,879	1,008,352	125,021	1,510,922	134,900	1,180	940	240
1930	89,650	1,585	2,064,758	179,236	2,154,408	180,821	1,393	991	408
1931	376,810	5,071	1,725,594	127,906	2,102,404	132,977	1,776	1,183	593
1932	1,668,980	19,444	2,741,335	178,187	4,410,315	197,631	1,523	840	683
1933	88,300	1,104	2,441,379	166,937	2,529,679	168,041	1,458	985	473
1934	3,500	70	1,364,300	129,566	1,367,800	129,636	1,321	740	581
1935	7,500	198	1,053,700	106,856	1,061,200	107,054	1,215	623	597
1936	-	-	673,100	68,409	673,100	68,409	991	380	603
1937	147,500	3,687	701,000	64,575	848,500	68,262	863	542	321
1938	50,000	1,000	715,800	65,872	765,800	66,872	670	354	316
1939	26,600	532	562,400	54,222	589,000	54,754	484	276	208
1940	-	-	291,100	36,077	291,100	36,077	449	193	256
1941	-	-	146,500	23,539	146,500	23,539	341	218	123
1942	-	-	190,300	31,226	190,300	31,226	253	131	122
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	-	-	104,100	34,965	104,100	34,965	1,230	-	1,230
1945	16,900	1,078	584,000	204,020	600,900	205,098	1,186	185	1,001
1946									
1947									
1948									
1949									
1950									

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Maryland Crab Pots*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of pots	Number of fishermen		
								on vessel	on boats and shore Regular	Casual
1937	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1938	20,000	400	27,500	1,925	47,500	2,325	55	-	9	-
1939	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1940	211,500	4,834	-	-	211,500	4,834	515	-	12	6
1941	350,000	11,750	-	-	350,000	11,750	575	-	14	4
1942	200,000	8,000	56,600	7,925	256,600	15,925	270	-	12	-
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	3,217,000	163,310	30,100	9,685	3,247,100	172,995	5,530	-	128	41
1945	6,199,000	376,740	79,700	27,910	6,278,700	404,650	7,365	32	197	10
1946										
1947										
1948										
1949										
1950										

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6/16/49 WAVE

Maryland Crab Scrapes*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of scrapes	No. motor boats	No. other boats
1920	183,909	13,115	2,420,669	289,988	2,604,578	303,103	1,487	-	-
1925	296,015	11,564	973,490	109,006	1,269,505	120,570	948	-	-
1929	939,020	17,845	1,610,676	201,336	2,549,696	219,181	1,102	-	536
1930	1,220,485	21,690	3,199,944	270,364	4,420,429	292,054	1,232	-	584
1931	538,200	7,376	2,097,237	148,979	2,635,437	156,355	1,098	-	539
1932	658,688	8,198	631,210	34,872	1,289,898	43,070	956	-	369
1933	1,015,900	12,698	740,766	44,451	1,756,666	57,149	642	-	321
1934	606,600	12,132	719,000	59,111	1,325,600	71,243	582	-	286
1935	243,300	6,083	1,101,500	88,113	1,344,800	94,196	708	-	304
1936	65,000	1,625	1,204,900	96,387	1,269,900	98,012	708	-	280
1937	-	-	1,487,900	118,432	1,487,900	118,432	632	-	296
1938	100,000	2,000	1,826,000	128,499	1,926,000	130,499	614	-	307
1939	113,100	2,262	2,253,400	180,277	2,366,500	182,539	548	-	274
1940	32,500	813	1,283,700	102,696	1,316,200	103,509	448	-	224
1941	-	-	527,000	63,235	527,000	63,235	195	-	98
1942	40,000	1,600	1,325,000	182,576	1,365,000	184,176	212	142	-
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	25,000	1,250	830,000	283,000	855,000	284,250	346	188	-
1945	10,300	618	923,400	323,190	933,700	323,808	200	122	-
1946									
1947									
1948									
1949									
1950									

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6/16/49 WAVE

Maryland catch by miscellaneous gear*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1920	8,100	340	44,075	12,375	52,175	12,715
1925	532	40	19,190	3,971	19,722	4,011
1929	-	-	25,520	3,492	25,520	3,492
1930	-	-	48,314	5,566	48,314	5,566
1931	-	-	87,779	9,311	87,779	9,311
1932	-	-	151,083	13,459	151,083	13,459
1933	-	-	266,884	27,013	266,884	27,013
1934	-	-	205,500	26,527	205,500	26,527
1935	-	-	118,100	15,002	118,100	15,002
1936	-	-	121,300	11,005	121,300	11,005
1937	-	-	62,300	6,298	62,300	6,298
1938	-	-	79,500	7,585	79,500	7,585
1939	20,000	400	120,200	13,546	140,200	13,946
1940	50,000	1,250	45,300	6,161	95,300	7,411
1941	-	-	6,400	1,266	6,400	1,266
1942	-	-	14,400	3,456	14,400	3,456
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	-	-	7,000	2,450	7,000	2,450
1945	9,800	710	8,300	2,905	18,100	3,615
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Catch of pound nets, haul seines, crab traps, fish fykes, hand lines, and catch by hand.

Virginia lines, with baits or snoods*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of lines	Number of fishermen		
								On vessel	on boats and Regular	shore Casual
1920	9,341,178	260,742	-	-	9,341,178	260,742	-	-	-	-
1925	14,393,397	390,863	13,835	1,245	14,407,232	392,108	-	-	-	-
1929	21,451,640	353,601	-	-	21,451,640	353,601	1,064	-	777	277
1930	20,113,470	373,069	-	-	20,113,470	373,069	1,386	-	1,335	71
1931	21,354,660	284,017	-	-	21,354,660	284,017	1,094	-	998	96
1932	18,302,400	181,741	-	-	18,302,400	181,741	994	-	922	72
1933	17,047,155	169,599	-	-	17,047,155	169,599	1,075	-	946	135
1934	16,862,400	286,607	-	-	16,862,400	286,607	1,437	-	968	475
1935	14,686,300	308,271	-	-	14,686,300	308,271	1,304	-	804	502
1936	19,354,400	371,763	193,800	13,935	19,548,200	385,698	2,140	2	1,493	651
1937	22,303,300	376,404	30,500	3,025	22,333,800	379,429	1,962	-	1,479	483
1938	22,434,000	324,614	506,000	36,113	22,940,000	360,727	1,603	-	1,233	373
1939	21,002,400	335,260	434,500	23,868	21,436,900	359,128	1,390	-	884	506
1940	14,129,200	253,221	449,600	31,629	14,578,800	284,850	1,269	-	865	406
1941	7,548,100	186,565	370,700	33,346	7,918,800	219,911	844	6	610	310
1942	7,593,800	197,678	311,100	28,244	7,904,900	225,922	558	3	457	99
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	10,256,000	512,852	383,900	103,323	10,639,900	616,175	542	-	405	208
1945	2,964,300	177,898	42,000	14,675	3,006,300	192,573	227	4	185	58
1946										
1947										
1948										
1949										
1950										

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some data are not given in certain year; i.e., soft crabs, 1929-1935. Soft crab catch estimated for those years is negligible compared to total catch, amounting to between 0.1% and 1.0%

6/16/49 WAVE

Virginia Dip-nets *

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of nets	Number of fishermen on boats and shore	
								Regular	Casual
1920	18,604	1,395	303,403	54,088	322,007	55,483	867	-	-
1925	93,500	1,953	696,715	81,793	790,215	83,746	759	-	-
1929	390,000	6,500	422,320	30,286	812,320	36,786	405	120	285
1930	308,400	5,397	897,040	75,967	1,205,440	81,364	712	467	245
1931	44,000	660	603,280	35,301	647,280	35,961	745**	337	408
1932	326,509	3,767	1,372,838	81,041	1,699,347	84,808	1,349	343	1,006
1933	193,100	1,968	1,939,257	135,629	2,132,357	137,597	1,675	496	1,187
1934	46,500	5,575	1,359,700	95,596	1,406,200	101,171	2,391**	971	1,420
1935	156,000	2,540	1,280,700	137,998	1,436,700	140,538	1,966	1,140	826
1936	331,900	13,882	1,310,900	169,468	1,642,800	183,350	1,495**	534	961
1937	12,000	180	1,346,500	125,910	1,358,500	126,090	1,440	695	745
1938	172,500	3,019	677,300	59,762	849,800	62,781	954	416	538
1939	-	-	651,800	49,883	651,800	49,883	658	200	458
1940	-	-	434,700	39,771	434,700	39,771	543	185	363
1941	38,600	1,544	456,600	78,624	495,200	80,168	314	122	192
1942	154,100	4,686	358,100	32,004	512,200	36,690	397	123	274
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	31,900	1,592	519,500	139,112	551,400	140,704	1,174**	165	1,009
1945	16,900	951	425,100	138,390	442,000	139,341	1,332***	217	1,115
1946									
1947									
1948									
1949									
1950									

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

** Negligible percentage of fish also caught.

*** Negligible percentage of terrapin also caught.

6/16/49 WAVE

Virginia Crab Pots*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of pots	Number of fishermen		
								On vessel	On boats and shore Regular	Casual
1935	48,000	500	7,700	804	55,700	1,304	46	-	4	-
1936	99,800	2,064	40,700	3,336	140,500	5,400	275	-	16	-
1937	438,000	8,260	51,500	5,120	489,500	13,380	1,060	-	36	23
1938	251,700	4,450	-	-	251,700	4,450	740	-	35	6
1939	1,083,000	20,188	161,900	9,714	1,244,900	29,902	1,120	-	32	65
1940	5,038,000	89,856	61,200	4,386	5,099,200	94,242	7,190	-	236	106
1941	5,707,200	159,757	79,300	11,634	5,786,500	171,391	9,409	10	162	282
1942	7,996,600	230,883	42,800	3,824	8,039,400	234,707	12,001	9	334	122
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	10,983,500	550,165	224,000	58,206	11,207,500	608,371	25,550	1	509	220
1945	13,064,800	782,888	273,800	95,830	13,338,600	878,718	37,800	6	775	214
1946										
1947										
1948										
1949										
1950										

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Virginia Crab Scrapes*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of scrapes	No. motor boats	No. other boats
1920	36,560	2,742	818,702	103,065	855,262	105,807	555	-	-
1925	44,700	921	437,424	44,220	482,124	45,141	455	-	-
1929	1,439,000	24,050	1,277,880	73,504	2,716,880	97,554	593	-	255
1930	1,024,000	15,360	1,983,960	119,038	3,007,960	134,398	618	-	256
1931	350,470	4,711	1,109,120	66,490	1,459,590	71,201	388	-	179
1932	69,486	869	146,973	8,819	216,459	9,688	80	-	30
1933	116,550	1,058	128,700	7,722	245,250	8,780	41	20	21
1934	5,900	53	10,600	386	16,500	439	4	-	4
1935	6,000	90	33,000	3,960	39,000	4,050	8	-	8
1936	29,000	700	257,400	15,437	286,400	16,137	47	-	47
1937	74,000	1,480	455,000	36,400	529,000	37,880	114	74	-
1938	280,000	3,820	542,300	34,971	822,300	38,791	170	117	-
1939	647,100	10,985	1,078,700	64,716	1,725,800	75,701	226	113	-
1940	243,500	4,335	567,100	39,697	810,600	44,032	72	36	-
1941	176,000	6,320	394,500	34,852	570,500	41,172	70	40	-
1942	152,000	4,540	336,500	30,920	488,500	35,460	58	29	-
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	325,100	16,255	420,500	112,990	745,600	129,245	120	75	-
1945	6,200	372	500,200	175,070	506,400	175,442	77	46	-
1946									
1947									
1948									
1949									
1950									

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

6/16/49 WAVE

Virginia Crab Dredges*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of dredges	No. of vessels	No. of boats
1920	3,068,800	136,341	-	-	3,068,800	136,341	118	-	-
1925	3,999,147	129,916	-	-	3,999,147	129,916	120	-	-
1929	7,072,800	178,445	-	-	7,072,800	178,445	124	56	6
1930	7,494,000	149,230	-	-	7,494,000	149,230	102	45	6
1931	7,214,000	100,025	-	-	7,214,000	100,025	112	50	6
1932	8,210,650	103,581	-	-	8,210,650	103,581	126	56	7
1933	6,554,570	111,273	-	-	6,554,570	111,273	130	52	13
1934	5,596,800	171,736	-	-	5,596,800	171,736	200	74	31
1935	4,792,200	175,698	-	-	4,792,200	175,698	211	80	47
1936	6,259,500	183,462	-	-	6,259,500	183,462	232	101	6
1937	4,902,700	174,960	-	-	4,902,700	174,960	198	99	-
1938	5,391,600	147,780	-	-	5,391,600	147,780	296	98	50
1939	4,088,200	115,084	-	-	4,088,200	115,084	182	69	2
1940	3,534,400	141,063	-	-	3,534,400	141,063	160	80	-
1941	2,117,200	98,623	-	-	2,117,200	98,623	134	58	-
1942	2,665,000	99,009	-	-	2,665,000	99,009	100	50	-
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	2,178,300	193,369	-	-	2,178,300	193,369	105	54	1
1945	2,258,100	138,056	1,500	525	2,259,600	138,581	168	74	11
1946									
1947									
1948									
1949									
1950									

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

6/16/49 WAVE

Virginia Crab Fykes*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value	No. of fykes	Number of fishermen on boats and shore	
								Regular	Casual
1935	12,000	300	6,000	600	18,000	900	12**	2	2
1936	41,700	773	36,600	5,870	78,300	6,643	45**	18	6
1937	82,500	1,468	286,800	29,200	369,300	30,668	277**	69	12
1938	49,900	1,207	206,300	27,873	256,200	29,080	408	106	31
1939	79,700	1,234	151,100	9,126	253,319	10,360	299	25	50
1940	58,700	1,060	241,600	17,168	300,300	18,228	388	36	56
1941	129,500	4,095	207,000	40,109	336,500	44,204	538	47	69
1942	82,500	2,295	252,800	20,224	335,300	22,519	479	57	38
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	104,400	5,218	407,000	106,830	511,400	112,048	242	12	85
1945	85,000	5,100	298,200	104,370	383,200	109,470	319	48	18
1946									
1947									
1948									
1949									
1950									

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

** 1935-1937 gear classified as "crab pound".

6/16/49 WAVE

Virginia catch by miscellaneous gear*

Year	Total hard crabs, lbs	Value	Total soft, peelers, lbs	Value	Total hard, soft, peelers, lbs.	Total value
1920	200	75	49,632	7,116	49,832	7,191
1925	1,250	80	274,276	30,723	275,526	30,803
1929	24,186	1,943	-	-	24,186	1,943
1930	-	-	-	-	-	-
1931	-	-	-	-	-	-
1932	115,000	863	29,250	1,950	144,250	2,813
1933	-	-	-	-	-	-
1934	4,400	73	-	-	4,400	73
1935	62,400	1,300	121,600	12,160	184,000	13,460
1936	21,500	536	130,100	10,820	151,600	11,356
1937	115,000	2,300	305,000	25,260	420,000	27,560
1938	110,700	1,208	850,700	52,460	961,400	53,668
1939	66,700	1,001	305,000	18,600	371,700	19,601
1940	12,700	254	223,000	15,635	235,700	15,889
1941	100	2	201,400	18,452	201,500	18,454
1942	-	-	144,000	15,120	144,000	15,120
1943	-	-	-	-	-	-
1944	49,600	2,480	467,500	116,550	517,100	119,030
1945	424,500	25,470	290,900	101,850	715,400	127,320
1946						
1947						
1948						
1949						
1950						

* Data from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Catch of pound nets, haul seines, crab traps, fish fykes, otter trawls, tongs, gill nets, and catch by hand.

Crab Licenses in Virginia*

Year	Ordinary	Patent dip trot line	Scrape	Dredge	Packing or picking house	Crab buyer	Fyke nets	Crab pots	Estimated no. of pots	Canning or packing house	Haul seine	Total licenses
1920**	148	-	-	12	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	178
1921	1,820	2	10	27	53	69	-	-	-	-	-	1,981
1922	2,115	2	26	23	55	132	-	-	-	-	-	2,353
1923	1,872	19	10	48	66	81	-	-	-	-	-	2,096
1924	2,060	52	13	49	58	94	-	-	-	-	-	2,326
1925	2,844	39	22	53	70	126	-	-	-	2	-	3,156
1926	2,712	38	12	62	75	130	-	-	-	2	-	3,031
1927	2,669	37	3	64	72	140	-	-	-	2	-	2,987
1928	2,138	29	25	69	71	111	-	-	-	-	-	2,443
1929	1,390	36	37	64	69	92	-	-	-	-	-	1,724
1930	1,537	48	6	52	77	97	-	-	-	-	-	1,817
1931	1,464	44	4	61	60	115	-	-	-	2	-	1,750
1932	1,051	67	5	60	48	102	-	-	-	3	-	1,336
1933	1,066	55	41	64	59	108	-	-	-	2	-	1,395
1934	1,610	69	38	71	65	132	-	-	-	-	-	1,985
1935	1,676	62	41	93	70	122	-	-	-	-	-	2,064
1936	1,601	52	11	89	74	130	31	3	50	1	-	1,992
1937	1,677	62	101	105	76	122	91	8	164	1	-	2,246
1938	1,699	70	115	80	70	141	29	80	959	1	-	2,291
1939	1,255	77	146	79	77	122	300	129	1,594	-	-	2,185
1940	1,261	46	19	96	85	138	400	349	12,165	-	-	2,394
1941	943	60	103	70	87	108	527	476	16,660	-	-	2,374
1942	773	33	139	63	84	76	440	525	18,375	-	-	2,133
1943	737	46	53	54	79	78	341	444	15,410	-	-	1,832
1944	601	55	81	64	73	64	250	600	17,275	-	-	1,788
1945	535	37	87	70	81	62	322	740	37,000	-	7	1,941
1946	440	67	141	77	99	69	615	709	35,450	-	2	2,219
1947	427	62	130	78	91	78	694	726	36,300	-	-	2,286
1948	440	58	99	99	90	87	836	830	41,500	-	-	2,539
1949												
1950												

* Data from the Commission of Fisheries of Virginia.

** 1920 includes only September through December.

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Crab Licenses in Maryland *

21.

Year	Crabbers	Packers	Shippers	No. of potters	No. of scrapers	No. of scrapes	No. of trot lines
1916	3500	59	170	-	730	-	-
1917	1709	178	-	-	378	-	-
1918	1814	78	80	-	402	-	-
1919	2375	57	103	-	407	-	-
1920	2055	66	126	-	455	-	-
1921	2695	66	141	-	533	-	-
1922	2912	58	142	-	460	-	-
1923	2553	65	144	-	420	-	-
1924	2668	65	135	-	389	-	-
1925	2515	55	125	-	406	-	-
1926	2018	57	116	-	291	-	-
1927	2235	55	123	-	279	-	-
1928	2275	57	132	-	270	-	-
1929	2390	58	167	-	-	-	-
1930	2795	66	166	-	215	-	-
1931	3012	61	183	-	164	-	-
1932	2562	63	178	-	121	-	-
1933	3121	64	184	-	113	-	-
1934	2041	50	161	-	27	-	-
1935	2602	60	105	-	142	-	-
1936	2427	58	184	-	80	-	-
1937	2086	51	172	-	96	-	-
1938	2004	112	111	-	90	614	1766
1939	2441	114	127	-	-	-	-
1940							
1941							

* Data for 1916-1929 from Seventh Annual Report of the Conservation Department of Maryland, 1929 (1930); data for 1930-1939 from Seventeenth Annual Report of the Conservation Department of Maryland, 1939 (1940).

WAVE 9/20/49

Crab Licenses in Maryland *

22.

Year	Crabbers	Packers	Shippers	No. of potters	No. of scrapers	No. of scrapes	No. of trot lines
1942	1170	41	134	**	-	-	-
1943	1381	51	117	106 ***	-	-	-
1944	1330	51	116	161 ***	-	-	-
1945	1832	39	134	196 ***	-	-	-
1946	1779	57	160	243 ***	-	-	-
1947							
1948	1637	95	149	340 ***	-	-	-
1949							
1950							

* Data for 1942-1946 from Annual Reports of the Maryland Board of Natural Resources, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947; data for 1948 from "The Maryland Crab Industry, 1948", by L. Eugene Cronin, Publication No. 76, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (1949).

** Not legal

*** State waters only

WAVE 9/20/49

Crab Receipts at the Municipal Fish Wharf and Market,
Washington, D. C. *

Year	Hard and soft crabs in pounds **	Crab meat in pounds
1918	201,120	51,030
1919	-	-
1920	71,913	32,718
1921	151,554	95,515
1922	202,143	40,037
1923	257,247	69,770
1924	215,190	53,945
1925	131,895	73,965
1926	206,310	99,040
1927	200,739	85,955
1928	467,355	105,195
1929	380,775	126,405
1930	414,840	126,370
1931	394,380	129,940
1932	375,555	183,560
1933	347,655	190,490
1934	328,955	151,970
1935	347,115	272,585
1936	108,525	148,830
1937	348,000	215,000
1938	519,000	265,000
1939	903,000	290,000
1940	529,350	244,020
1941	385,080	186,200
1942	466,500	208,875
1943	362,160	328,877
1944	447,000	340,387
1945	900,000	205,000
1946	837,000	250,000
1947	693,000	310,000
1948	671,100	115,055
1949		
1950		

* Data from the Bureau of Food Inspection, Health Department, District of Columbia. Reported by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the period 1918-36, by personal communication for 1937-48.

** Conversion factors used; as reported by the Health Dept.:
1 box soft crabs = 12 dozen
1 dozen soft crabs = 5 pounds
1 barrel hard crabs = 135 pounds