

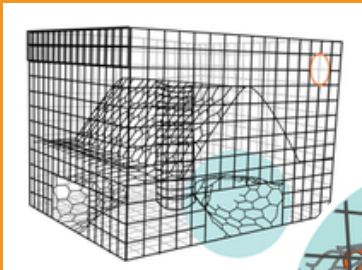
Using BRDs



Photo by Melanie Thorn

- + Little effect on crab catch.
- + Reduces bycatch.
- + Reduces terrapin mortality.
- + Conserves marine species.

Attaching a BRD



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



Insert BRDs into all funnels (openings) on commercial-style crab pots. The placement of the BRD inside the funnel is the crabber's choice, whether it is deep inside the pot's funnel or towards the outside. Secure with cable ties on each corner.

How Can You Help?

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



Photo by Melanie Thorn

This brochure was made possible by our partners. Funding provided by the Marine Debris Foundation. Visit our website BRD-Zone.net for more information.



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 large terrapins from entering & drowning.



Check out
BRD-Zone.net
for more info

What Are BRDs?

BRDs are preventative tools that help to protect adult terrapins from drowning. 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 for males at 3-5 years old and females at 6-10 years old, the drowning of adult terrapins in pots affects the overall population.



Photo by Melanie Thorn

Due to differences in size, shape, and behavior of terrapins and crabs, BRDs prevent large terrapins from entering a pot while still allowing legal sized crabs to enter.

BRD Facts

Studies confirm that BRDs are effective tools for saving marine species and do not discourage blue crabs from entering pots. BRDs have little effect on the size and number of blue crabs found in crab pots. Just by reducing the funnel size, there is a reduction in bycatch with continued crab captures.



Photo by wpopp via Wikimedia Commons

Many 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 large terrapins from being captured and drowning.



Photo by Melanie Thorn

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 affect marine life, 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 affect crab and terrapin populations. Lost pots will happen, but you can take extra precautions like rigging your pot properly using a sinkable line, commercial float, and sufficient weight.



Rig-It-Right!



Photo by Project Terrapin