



**Diamondback terrapin**  
**(*Malaclemys terrapin*)**

Diamondback terrapins are a species of turtle that live exclusively in salt marsh ecosystems. They spend most of their time in the water, but females come ashore to lay their eggs in sandy areas above the tideline. Young terrapins spend their first years in the surrounding marsh before venturing deeper in the marsh.



**Thank you for doing your  
part to protect this species!**

For more information or questions  
regarding NC crabbing regulations  
including TEDs, please contact the  
NC Division of Marine Fisheries  
252-726-7021

**To learn more scan the QR  
codes below!**



**CATCH CRABS  
WHILE SAVING  
TURTLES**



## History

Diamondback terrapins were once a popular item in the commercial fishing trade. The creation of terrapin soup as well as a trade market severely decreased their numbers. In the 2000's they were classified as a "species of special concern" due to their low population number.

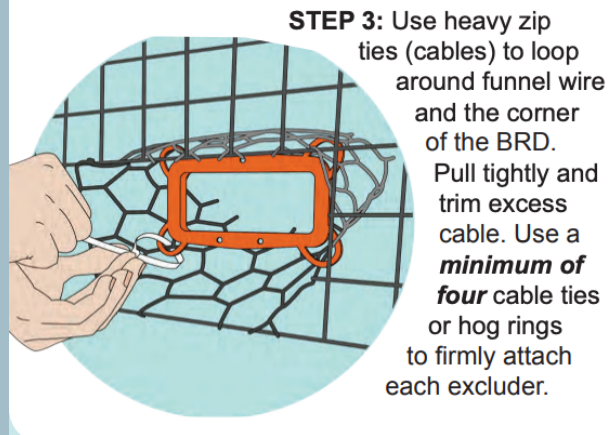
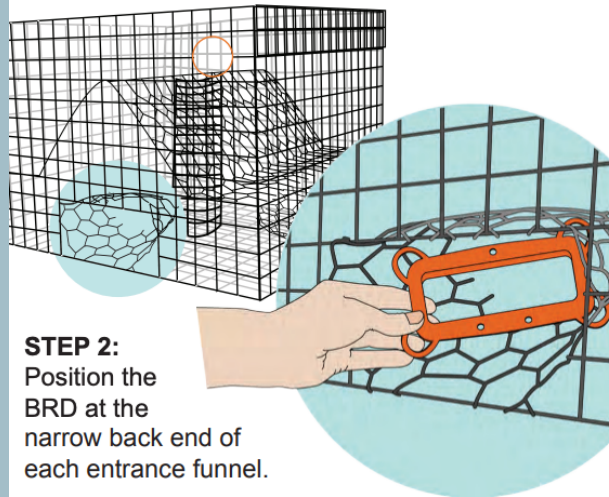
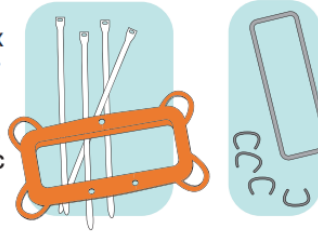


## What is the problem?

Recreational crab pots claim the lives of terrapins as bycatch. Terrapins are lured into crab traps by the same bait used to catch blue crabs. Due to the nature of crab traps however, once the terrapins get in, they cannot escape to breathe. Terrapins that are trapped in crab traps will ultimately die from drowning.

## Installing a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) on a crab pot.

**STEP 1:** Obtain a 1 ¾ x 4 ¾ inch BRD (metal or plastic) for *each* funnel opening in the crab pot, along with heavy plastic cable ties. Hog rings or cable ties can be used to attach metal BRDs.



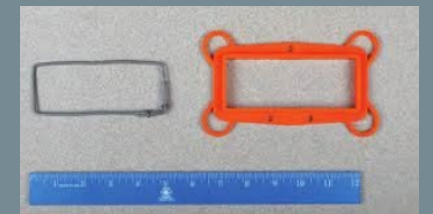
National Aquarium in Baltimore

## How to help



Using a bycatch reduction device (BRD) will prevent large terrapins from entering crab traps. This reduces drowning events from terrapins as well as blue crab catch interference.

**As of March 2021, all crab pots in the Bald Head Island diamondback terrapin management area must have a TED installed.**



## Where to get a BRD?

Bald Head Island Conservancy offers free TED devices while supplies last. Hardware and other sport fishing stores often sell these devices.