

Peeler Pot Cull Ring Data

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April 11-May3,2000

This Data was gathered from Occohannock Creek,a bayside creek in Northampton County,Virginia.The crabs here are usually larger than other creeks on the Eastern Shore.

The pots were set out April 9th.;it had been a warm start to spring but it cooled down and the wind stayed Northeas for a very long time.Because of shallow water;wind and tide direction the time to fish the traps is not very accurate
2 -1 1/4" rings in upper chamber ;

				No Rings						
upper chamber	lower chamber	eels	time	DATE April	upper chamber	lower chamber	eels	time	peelers	
									rings	w/o
1	2	x	52 min.	11	2	x	x	53min.	12	7
2	4	x	55	12	3	6	x	57	6	9
2	3	x	51	14	5	2	x	53	14	12
x	1	x	53	16	1	3	x	55	21	20
1	2	x	52	17	3	2	x	56	34	30
x	2	x	54	19	x	1	x	52	51	41
1	2	x	55	20	2	1	x	57	53	44
x	2	x	51	22	x	1	x	50	61	52
1	x	x	50	24	1	2	x	50	58	61
2	1	x	52	26	2	4	x	54	64	62
2	x	x	53	27	1	3	x	53	48	41
x	1	x	51	29	1	x	x	51	51	47
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12	19	0			21	25	0		473	426

May

2	3	x	53	1st.	4	2	x	52	43	40
1	4	x	69	3rd.	3	5	x	73	46	39
<hr/>										
3	7	0			7	7	0		89	79
<hr/>										
TOTALS										
15	26	0			28	32	0		562	505

Pots taken up May 3rd. with an assistant and moved to Pocomoke Sound where there are more smaller crabs ;set along the Md./Va. line from Shad Landing to the corner state line marker.they showed signs of fouling/barnickles

September

Style	upper	lower	eels	time	DATE	upper	lower	eels	time		
PEELERS	Chamber			min.		chamber				rings	w/o
ringe											
S	X	X	1	29	1st	X	X	1	28	36	34
T	X	X	X	25	2ND	1	X	X	27	32	30
S	X	X	1	28	4TH	X	X	X	27	33	35
T	1	X	X	27	5TH	X	X	1	30	32	31
S	X	X	X	25	6TH	X	X	X	27	26	21
T	X	1	X	24	7TH	1	X	X	23	28	26
S	X	X	X	22	8TH	X	X	X	23	16	24
T	1	X	1	22	11th*	1	X	X	21	23	28
S	X	2	X	25	12th**	X	X	X	23	24	22
T	1	1	X	23	13th	X	1	X	22	21	24
S	X	2	X	25	14th	1	1	1	24	24	29
S	X	1	X	26	15th	X	1	X	27	23	27

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4 3 3

318 331

*ran out 24 of 1 ¼ in S style and 24 no ring pots at Persimmon Point
 1** lost 1 with rings 1 ¼ ran out yesterday AT 11 A.M.TILL 7:15 A.M.NEXT DAY
 NOT AS MANY SOOKS ON PERSIMMON PT. AS THERE ARE AT THE OTHER
 LOCATIONS;
 FRESH OR DRY POTS SEEMED TO CATCH MORE PEELERS ALL YEAR,IN BOTH
 SHALLOW
 AND DEEP WATER ;SAND OR MUD

TOTALS FROM SURVEY:

WITH CULL RINGS

UPPER	LOWER	EELS
CHAMBER		
90	148	18

WITHOUT CULL RINGS

UPPER	LOWER	EELS
CHAMBER		
109	165	34

Marketable size peelers	
With rings	without rings
2575	2649

While the pots with the cull rings caught fewer peelers it may be because the pots without the rings were in a more favorable location,like closer to a sandbar edge or a shell rock,or the shoreline but in my opinion the pots with the rings were easier to fish and seemed to catch as good as their counterparts even though the numbers don't show it ,this may be because of cut off or lost soon after being put out,one was gone after being out only about 18 hours. One day at least 7 pots were hooked closed differently than we do.

August										
Upper chamber	lower chamber	eel	Time	DATE	upper chamber	lower chamber	eel	time	PEELERS	
									w/rings	w/o rings
T x	2	2	23	1st	1	1	2	25	25	27
S x	1	1	22		1	x	x	24	26	25
T 1	x	x	23	2nd	x	1	x	22	23	22
S x	x	x	23		x	x	x	23	24	25
T 1	x	x	23	4th	x	x	x	22	25	27
S x	1	x	22	5th \$	x	x	x	23	12	9
T 2	x	x	25	7th	1	1	x	26	23	27
S x	x	x	23	8th	x	1	1	23	21	18
T 1	1	x	29	10th *	x	x	x	28	27	25
S 1	x	x	25	11th	x	2	x	22	20	18
T x	x	1	26	12th	x	x	1	27	23	22
S x	x	x	23	14th	1	x	x	25	18	17
T x	1	x	22	15th	1	x	x	23	19	19
S 1	x	x	23	16th	x	x	x	26	21	23
T x	x	x	22	18th	x	1	x	28	16	17
S x	x	x	23	19th	x	2	x	22	13	14
T x	x	x	24	21st	x	x	2	24	21	18
S x	x	x	23	23rd	x	x	x	23	20	16
T 1	x	x	24	24th	x	x	x	21	18	19
S x	1	x	26	26th*	x	x	x	25	31	28
S x	x	x	27	28th	1	x	1	26	31	30
T x	x	x	26	29th	x	x	x	27	32	34
T x	x	x	27	30th	x	1	x	27	30	31

-8-----7-----4-----6-----10-----7-----516-----511

\$ Pots had been fished by someone else

*clean pots

small crabs, under 3 inches seem not to be potting unless a small fish has died in the pot; this may be because there are 2 to 5 sooks in a lot of the pots and the small crabs may be afraid of the lar sooks. also moved the pots to slightly deeper water may had some effect. as the smaller crabs seem to stay close to the shoreline

JULY

Upper lower Chamber		eels	time	DATE	upper lower chamber	eels	time	PEELERS		
								w/rings	w/o rings	
3	6	x	26	3rd	6	5	x	28	48	63
4	3	x	27	4th	4	3	1	29	51	52
3	1	1	18	6th *	1	2	x	17	22	16
2	2	x	16	8th	3	2	x	18	18	18
1	2	x	17	10th	x	2	1	18	16	18
2	x	x	15	12th	1	3	x	16	13	13
1	2	x	23	14th **	2	x	x	25	10	16
x	x	x	18	15th	x	1	x	19	21	23
1	x	x	20	17th	x	1	x	20	24	22
x	x	x	20	18th	x	x	1	20	26	24
x	1	x	18	19th	x	1	x	19	23	25
x	1	x	22	21st	1	x	x	22	25	26
x	x	x	21	24th	1	x	x	23	25	26
1	x	x	22	25th	x	1	x	22	21	20
x	1	x	21	26th	x	1	1	21	23	22
x	x	1	28	27th# s	x	x	x	30	26	31
x	x	1	22	27th t	x	1	x	21	27	29
1	1	1	21	28th s	x	1	x	23	23	24
x	2	1	23	28th t	1	1	x	26	27	27
x	1	x	24	29th t	x	x	x	26	22	24
1	x	1	29	30th s	2	x	x	31	30	30

20-----23-----6-----22-----25-----4-----521-----549

*took up other 1/2 of pots to dry out ; clean ;lost 3 pots w/o rings converted 1/2 to lower and upper chamber rings with a larger 1 1/2 inch ring in the lower side wall

s = 2 1 1/4 inch rings in side of top chamber

t = 1 1 1/4 inch ring in upper chamber and 1 1 1/2 inch ring in the lower chamber

26th moved 50 pots up river 1/2 with upper and lower rings 1/2 w/o rings

clean pots catch more semi-hard or buck crabs for a few days then catch more peelers than slightly fouled pots,

MAY 12-30,2000

The following data was gathered from the Virginia portion of the Pocomoke Sound from Shad Landing To the corner line marker along the Maryland-Virginia line

Upper Chamber	lower Chamber	eels	time	date	upper chamber	lower chamber	eels	time	Peelers	
									w/rings	w/o ring
1	3	X	32	12 TH	4	6	3	37	34	31
X	1	X	30	15TH	1	2	1	33	36	38
X	1	X	31	17TH	1	2	2	34	29	26
1	2	1*	32	19TH	2	2	0	33	28	29
6	15	1	36	22ND **	5	10	1	35	31	32
3	11	1	34	24TH**	13	21	X	41	29	31
2	2	X	33	26TH	3	4	1	34	33	29
1	3	x	32	28th	x	2	x	34	34	31
1	3	X	30	31ST	1	5	2	34	32	31
15	41	3			30	54	10		276	278

*First eel in ringed pots[it was in upper chamber]

**some of these crabs could escape through the mesh openings;a few pots had baitfish washed in them

June

Upper Chamber	lower Chamber	eels	time	DATE	upper chamber	lower chamber	eels	time	peelers	
									w/rings	w/o rings
3	4	x	32	1st	2	3	x	32	35	37
1	2	x	35	2nd	3	1	x	33	37	36
1	1	x	31	3rd	1	3	1	35	38	39
3	4	x	34	5th	4	6	3	36	34	32
2	2	1	38	7th *	3	2	1	40	44	41

11th ran back out in new location;Drain ditch towards Pig Point

2	3	x	32	12th	3	2	2	36	43	38
3	1	x	34	13th	1	3	1	35	32	34
2	3	x	32	15th	3	2	x	33	31	29
4	9	x	24	20th **	6	19!	x	23	28	23
1	2	x	25	21st	2	1	x	25	25	26
2	6	1	23	23rd	3	6	1	26	22	26
0	4	x	26	27th	0	5	1	28	7	6
0	3	x	25	30th	1	3	0	26	6	8
-24	44	2			19	41	10		382	375

* took up 1/2 to clean & dip lost 3 pots-2 ringed 1 not (replaced)

** ran dry pots back out Took up other 1/2 to dry out; dry pots seem to catch more peelers

! one pot had a dead fish and 7 small crabs

lots of large Croaker are entering the pots ,this may deter peelers from potting ,they are also stretching and/or smashing the funnels and upstairs openings