

Alabama Blue Crab Report Update October 2024

Alabama Blue Crab Landings and Values

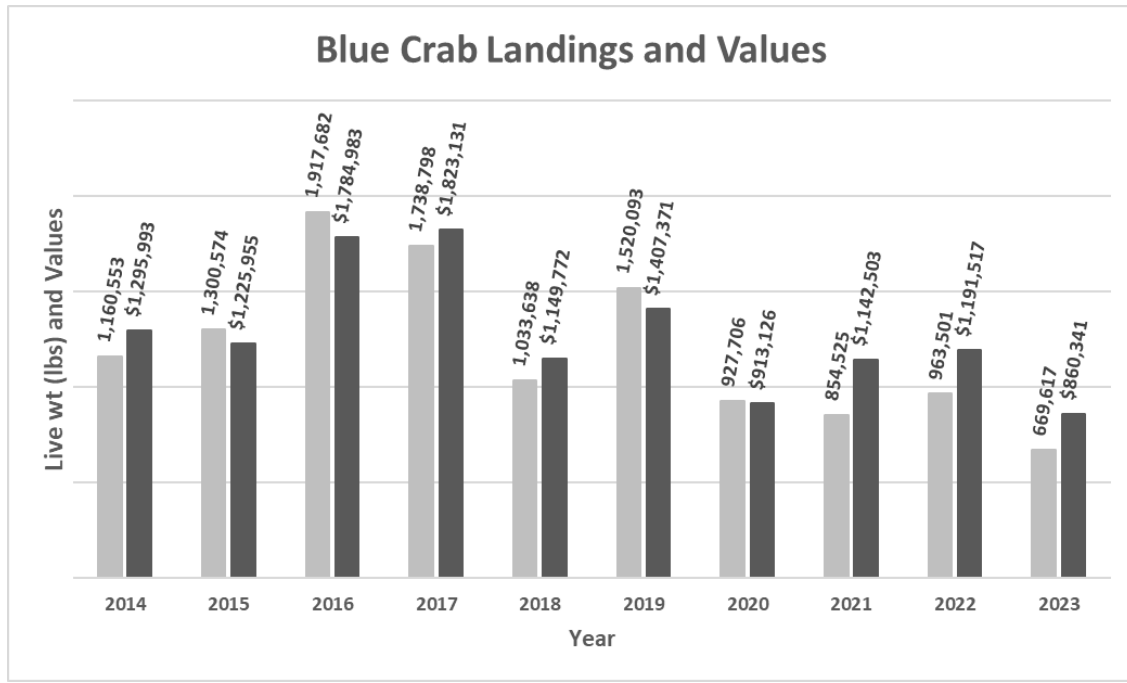


Figure 1. Alabama Commercial Blue Crab Landings from 2014-2023 for all Gear Types Reported via the Alabama Trip Ticket Program
2021, 2022, and 2023 Data is Preliminary & Subject to Change

Table 1. Number of Commercial Crabbing Trips made 2014 – 2023 Reported via the Alabama Trip Ticket Program
2021, 2022, and 2023 Data is Preliminary & Subject to Change

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Trips	3,980	3,609	4,141	5,121	3,339	3,356	2,350	2,321	2,150	1,590

Alabama Derelict Crab Trap Recovery

The AMRD conducted a derelict crab pot cleanup during 2024 and continues to monitor the accumulation of derelict crab pots in volunteer accessible Alabama waters twice annually. On May 3 and 4, 2024, AMRD hosted a volunteer derelict crab pot cleanup with the aid of the Coastal Conservation Association. On May 3, volunteer kayakers marked derelict crab traps on the shallow flats of the Mobile Tensaw Delta. On May 4, 8 volunteers

recovered 31 derelict crab traps. The high tidal stage made operations on both the trap marking day and the cleanup day difficult for volunteers. A new cleanup is being proposed for the Spring of 2025 with the hope that weather and tidal conditions will be more conducive to collecting more derelict crab pots from this area. The AMRD also continues to bring in derelict crab pots, when possible, that are found during normal biological sampling activities.

Table 2. Alabama Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Summary 2002 – 2024.

Year	Date of Closure	Estimated # of Volunteers	# Traps Caught per Volunteer (CPV)	Calculated # of Hours Worked	Number of Traps Removed
2002	June 15, 2002	36 - 50	6.5 - 9.0	144 - 200	323
	June 5-11, 2002*				115
2003	March 15, 2003	150 - 200	5.4 - 7.2	600 - 800	1,074
	June 10-16, 2003*				10
2004	March 13, 2004	127 - 190	2.2 - 3.3	508 - 760	418
2005	No program				
2006	March 11, 2006	55 - 70	4.9 - 6.3	220 - 280	346
2007	March 24, 2007	22‡	7.0	88	154
2008	March 1, 2008	50 - 60	5.9 - 7.1	250 - 360	356
2009	No program				
2010	March 5-6, 2010	40-50	5.7-7.2	160-200	287
2011- 2016	No program				
2017	March 24-25,2017	14	6	56	84
2018	March 23 - 24 2018	19	3.4	104	64
2019	April 19 - 20 2019	20	5.7	97	114
2020 - 2023	No Program				
2024	May 3 - 4 2024	8	3.9	64	31
				Total Traps	3,376

Table 3. Total number of Terrapins (non-species specific) found in derelict traps during Alabama Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program 2002 – 2024.

Terrapins (Species Not Listed) Found in Derelict Crab Traps 2002 -2024	
Total	10
2002	5
2004	4
2006	1

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