BLUE CRAB FISHING
For personal use/not for sale: No license required.

Legal Blue Crab Capture Methods:
• Scoop Net, Hand Line, Dip Net, Trot Line
• Star Crab Trap (or similar device)
• Circular Topless Trap (not exceeding 26" in diameter)
• Semi-Circular Cylindrical Trap (12" or less in diameter)

To be legal in Connecticut… the trap must be manually operated (the crab cannot become trapped inside a crab pot or trap without the action of the crabber)

Required: All devices must be attended at all times.

Open Season: May 1–November 30.

Minimum Shell Width: (Spike Tip to Spike Tip)
• 5" hard shell crabs
• 3½" soft shell crabs
Prohibited:
• Possession of uncooked blue crab meat without the body shell attached.
• Possession of more than 2 claws per body.
• Possession of egg bearing females.
• Chesapeake/Maryland-style crab pot/traps.

Illegal in Connecticut
Chesapeake/Maryland Style Crab Pots/Traps

Egg Bearing Female Blue Crab

For more information: Marine Fisheries Division 860-434-6043 or deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov