



ADOPTION STATEMENT
BLUE CRAB FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT

We, the undersigned, adopt Amendment 1 to the 1997 Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan.

We agree to work together to implement the management strategies and actions recommended by this amendment to protect blue crab spawning potential; reduce exploitation; increase our biological understanding of blue crabs through monitoring; identify and protect blue crab habitat; and incorporate ecosystem processes.

We agree to accept this amendment, which serves to formally adopt biological reference points for managing the blue crab resource; to ensure continuation of blue crab monitoring surveys; to protect SAV beds and salt marsh-fringed shorelines, creeks, and coves that serve as blue crab habitat; to consider designating additional sanctuary areas to benefit blue crabs and SAV; to agree to utilize the Fishery Ecosystem Plan guidelines and incorporate ecosystem considerations as data becomes available; and, to evaluate the impact of non-native crab introductions on the blue crab population and development recommendations.

December 9, 2003

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION