

**Virginia Fishery Resource Grant Program
Application**

1. Project title: Fish bycatch reduction in Blue crab pots
2. Name of applicant: John Smith
3. Company (if applicable): JS & Co
4. Telephone: 757-867-5309
5. Mailing Address: 123 Crab Lane
Gloucester Point, VA
23018
6. Priority addressed by project (see list): 1:1,2,3,4,6,8,10
7. Fishing license/permit number(s): License / permit number
8. Social security (last 4 digits) or federal tax ID number:
XXXX
9. Funding requested: \$4,066.00
10. Project dates: start 4/17/2022 end 11/30/2022
11. Other project participant(s), affiliation, address and phone:
Sarah Borsetti (VIMS MAP)
seborsetti@vims.edu, (804) 684-7168; VMRC

[Note: Use additional pages as needed to respond to the items below.]

12. Give a brief summary of the situation or problem to be addressed.
This study will examine if installing an escape panel on conventional crab pots will reduce the bycatch of fishes without influencing the number of legal crabs caught.

13. What is the purpose (objectives) of the project?

The purpose of this study is to install an escape panel to reduce bycatch of small fish with vertical swimming patterns (i.e., spadefish, spot, and croaker) by modifying the design of the conventional crab pot without influencing the number of legal crabs caught. This modified crab pot should reduce or eliminate bycatch of non-target species, create a more efficient crab pot, and aid in increasing the survival of vertical swimming fish which are caught with conventional crab pots.

14. What work do you intend to do, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

15 crab pots with an escape panel (treated) & 15 conventional crab pots (control) fished near each other 3 times over the fishing season (May, Aug., Nov.) in the James River. Data will be collected for 10 days. Modified crab pots (treated) - 1"X 5" escape panel (made from 1"x 1/2" wire) placed on the side of the crab pot (7" from the base).

The pots will be set and hauled on the same days to make their catch comparable. The bottom depth/type and air/water temperature for where I set the two types of pots will be consistent, and these variables will be recorded on my datasheets. Other data collected include pot type, area fished, bait type, # of crabs caught (M/F), and type of bycatch (species and length).

15. Explain how the expected results will address the problem and/or enhance fishery resources.

The vertical panel will allow for the safe release of small fishes from the modified crab pot without adversely affecting the number of legal crabs caught. The modified pots will be more effective in capturing the target species (crab) and reducing the number of small fish caught.

16. Explain how the expected results will be made available to the fishing industry.

This information and results will be shared with other watermen by giving an update at a Watermen's Association meeting and by word of mouth with other crabbers. The completed reports will be provided to VIMS and VMRC via email to be shared at agency meetings, as appropriate. Results will be reported to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

17. Briefly outline who will be responsible for each aspect of the work plan (attach letters from cooperators outlining their participation).

I will be responsible for fishing and collecting and recording the data. I will work with staff at VIMS MAP before I start the project to create my data sheets. Have conversations with VMRC to discuss the relevance of the work. Once the data is collected, I will work with VIMS MAP staff to analyze the data and write the final report.

18. Briefly summarize the qualifications of each participant.

I have been a commercial fisherman in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries for 10 years. I am also a high school graduate with access to a personal computer for data entry. I will work with VIMS MAP staff to analyze my data and assist with my final report.

19. Provide project budget and cost justification.

ITEM / CATEGORY	AMOUNT
<i>a. Personnel Costs (time x cost)</i> 3 hrs/day @ \$20/day for 30 days (3 sampling events - 10-days each)	\$ 1,800
<i>b. Travel (trip or mileage x cost)</i> Boat travel to fish pots @ \$2/mile, 15 miles/day for 30 days (\$900) VIMS to meet with MAP staff, 60 miles (3 trips) @ \$0.65 (\$39)	\$ 936
<i>c. Supplies</i> 15 pots (treatment pots) @ \$12/pot (\$180) Cull panel (\$300) Clips (\$100) Crab pot dip (\$200)	\$780
<i>d. Equipment (items more than \$500)</i> Temperature loggers (\$550)	\$550
<i>e. Contractual Services (itemized)</i>	\$0
<i>f. Other costs (itemized)</i>	\$0
<i>g. Total Project Costs</i>	\$4,066.00

Applicant Signature: John Smith

Date: 12/15/2022