

Instructions (proposal) Regarding Restrictions on Recreational angler's Catch of Blue Crabs

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Marine Industries Promotion Division, Chiba Prefecture
Chiba Marine Fisheries Adjustment Commission

In fiscal year 2025, the Sea Area Fisheries Adjustment Committee issued an instruction restricting the harvesting of blue crabs by recreational angler in fishing grounds off the coast of Kisarazu City.

While the number of people harvesting blue crabs decreased during fishing ground monitoring conducted from September to November 2025 compared to before the restrictions were put in place, some individuals were found to be harvesting in violation of the instruction. This is causing difficulties in managing fishing rights and raises concerns regarding the conservation of blue crab. Therefore, the instruction will continue to be issued.

Furthermore, since individuals were found harvesting mud crabs, which are not subject to the restrictions, mud crabs will be added to the list of regulated species.

1 Situation in fiscal year 2025

(1) Results of fishing ground monitoring (conducted jointly with the local fisheries cooperative, Kisarazu City, and the Japan Coast Guard)

	Number of days where fishing grounds were monitored	Number of people who provided guidance during fishing ground monitoring (persons)	Nationality
September	1	15	China: 18 people
October	2	22	Vietnam: 15 people
November	2	0	Cambodia: 2 people
Total	5	37	Philippines: 1 person United States: 1 person Total: 37 people

(2) Effectiveness of the instructions (number of people collecting blue crabs per day (persons/day))

	FY2025	FY2024 (Before issuing instruction)
September	15	15
October	11	24
November	0	7
Average	7.4	15.0

- Following the issuance of the directive, the number of people collecting blue crabs decreased compared to before the regulations were put in place, but some individuals were found to be collecting blue crab in violation of the directive.

- Because guidance was given before collecting began, most people collected only about 0-1 kg, but some individuals were found to have collected more than 10 kg.
- Individuals were found to be collecting mud crabs, which is not subject to the regulations.



Crab that was caught



Mud crab

2 Schedule

March 2026 Deliberation by the Sea Area Fisheries Adjustment Committee

June 2026 Public comment

July-August 2026 Publication of committee directive

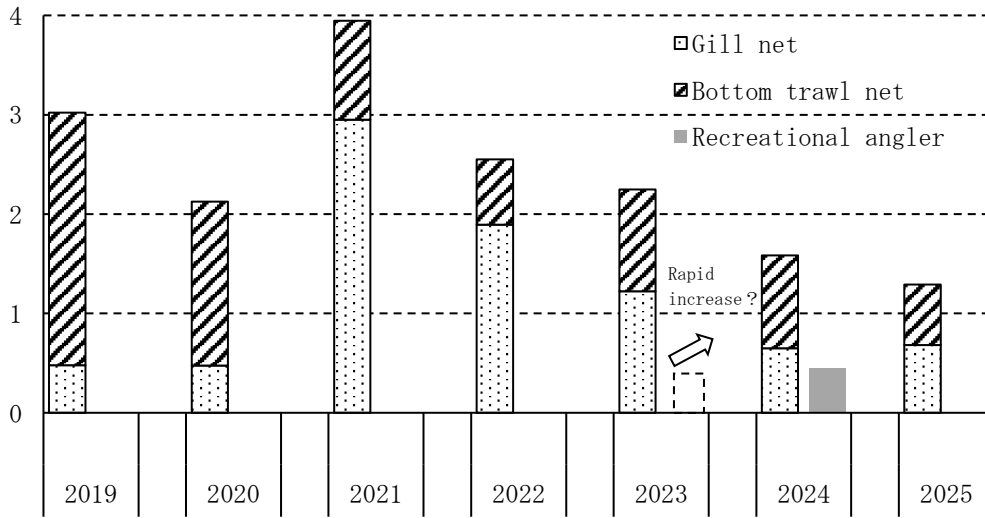
September-November 2026 Regulations commence based on committee directive

【Reference】

1 Background

- Since 2023, there has been a drastic increase in recreational anglers entering the tidal flats off the coast of Kisarazu City, mainly during low tide at night in the autumn, to catch blue crabs using dip nets and other equipment.
- The tidal flats where recreational anglers are entering are fishing grounds managed by the local fisheries cooperative. Because this is interfering with the management of fishing rights and raising concerns about the conservation of blue crab resources, the local fisheries cooperative has requested the prefecture to regulate recreational anglers' fishing.
- A survey conducted in cooperation with the local fisheries cooperative and Kisarazu City confirmed the presence of many recreational anglers. Given the potential for this situation to continue and pose problems for fisheries management, regulations were implemented from fiscal year 2025 under the direction of the Sea Area Fisheries Adjustment Committee.

2 Fishing volume and catch volume of blue crabs by recreational anglers



Fish caught by commercial fishmen in Kisarazu area and Recreational angler's catch (tonnes)