VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
CRAB MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
380 FENWICK ROAD, FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA
VMRC COMMISSION ROOM

October 22, 2026 -- 4:00 PM

Members Present	**Public**	**VMRC Staff**
Marshall Cox	Rom Lipcius (VIMS)	Ethan Simpson
Spencer Headley	Dave Rudders (VIMS)	Jill Ramsey
J.C. Hudgins	Lynnee Morris	Alexa Galván
Daniel Knott	Randy Chambers (College of William and Mary)	Colonel Matthew Rogers
Chris Moore	Richard Costin	Catherine Wilhelm
Bernard "Wayne" Morris		Lindsey Nelson
Cory Rice		Lisa Pyle
Mark Sanford		Jack Dearstine
Derek Tribble		Shakira Goffe
Monica Schenemann		

Meeting minutes were prepared by Catherine Wilhelm.

I. Welcome; Introductions

Chairman Spencer Headley opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. Mrs. Alexa Galván provided the agenda for the meeting and mentioned the inclusion of VIMS faculty members.

II. Approval of minutes from September 30, 2026, meeting

The minutes from the September 30, 2026, meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Recreational Terrapin Excluder Devices

Mrs. Galván gave a shortened presentation on terrapin excluder devices (TEDs). She again provided examples of TED designs, including those used by North Carolina and an experimental TED created by Dr. Randy Chambers from the College of William and Mary.

Mr. Wayne Morris asked if the experimental TED would be legal, and several of the committee members stated that it would be hard to enforce a homemade TED. Mrs. Galván stated it would depend how the regulation is written and that it could include language that allows any TED within certain specifications. Mr. Marshall Cox expressed concern regarding approximate measurements of the experimental TED, and Mr. Mark Sanford agreed that the wording would need to be specific. Colonel Matthew Rogers agreed that language would need to be specific.

Several committee members expressed concerns about the ability to enforce a recreational TED requirement. Colonel Rogers stated that law enforcement would enforce whatever is finalized, but they have very few interactions with recreational crabbers. Mr. Daniel Knott

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specified that it would then come down to education of recreational crabbers. Colonel Rogers mentioned that once the terrapin hot spot maps come out, law enforcement may be able to focus their attention on those areas. Mr. J.C. Hudgins stated that recreational anglers would have a hard time making the wire (experimental) TED, and would have to use the plastic designs. Mr. Hudgins also did not agree with the idea of multiple TED designs being allowed. Colonel Rogers stated that law enforcement has greater concern regarding the sizing than the style of a TED.

Dr. Rom Lipcius stated that, when asked, an ACE hardware store told him they would sell a pot with a TED already installed in it. He therefore recommended going straight to the sellers as a better way to ensure the TEDs are installed in recreational pots.

Dr. Chambers brought an example of his experimental TED with a funnel for the committee to see. He stated that putting the TED on the outside of the funnel, inside the pot, is integral to avoid a lip inside the funnel that could turn away crabs. Dr. Chambers also said his lab's experiment with these TEDs found more crabs were caught in pots with TEDs where the TEDs were outside the funnel. Mr. Cox stated that wouldn't work for commercial pots, and Dr. Chambers replied that this design is targeted towards recreational. Mr. Knott asked if he experimented with different sized wire TEDs, to which Dr. Chambers replied not yet. Dr. Chambers used the dimensions 2 ¼ by 6 inches, which he noted would exclude the larger female turtles. Mr. Cox asked if any turtles became stuck in the gate, to which Dr. Chambers said no. Mr. Morris asked if small turtles still get trapped and Dr. Chambers said yes. Mr. Knott inquired about the consequences of an animal bending the wire of the experimental TED. Dr. Chambers then passed the wire TED around for the Committee to see up close. Committee members noted it was rigid, difficult for an animal to bend, and would be cheap to make. Dr. Chambers again stressed the importance of putting the TED on the outside of the funnel.

Mr. Chris Moore brought up the "Narrow Funnel Design" used in North Carolina for discussion. Dr. Chambers stated that because the North Carolina funnel design can expand, he has concerns about its effectiveness. Mr. Cory Rice counted the hexagon rings on Dr. Chambers design and noted it was similar in size to Virginia funnels. Mr. Sanford asked about the South Carolina TED design, and Dr. Chambers advised not to consider it.

Mr. Moore asked about the ability to require TEDs in un-licensed recreational pots. Mrs. Galván brought up language from Code which stated anyone using two crab pots is exempt from licensing requirements – not exempting from gear requirements. Mr. Moore confirmed with staff that VMRC does not have a list of the "un-licensed two pot" recreational crabbing sector to use when announcing the regulation change. Mr. Moore asked VMRC to see what can be done towards finding out the scope of the recreational crabbing sector. Mr. Hudgins asked about the difference between TEDs being required in all recreational pots and required in just licensed recreational pots. Mrs. Galván stated the licensed pots are those fished with recreational 5-pot licenses. Mr. Moore asked if the 5-pot license without TEDs can be removed from the regulations. Mrs. Galván stated that Code gives VMRC the ability to have a recreational license of up to 10 pots but does not require VMRC to sell one.

Mr. Rice made a motion that VMRC require 2 ¼ by 6 inch TEDs or 9 by 11 mesh narrow funnel in all recreational pots. He believed this would give crabbers a choice and allow them

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to decide where to put it. Mrs. Schenemann seconded the motion. Mr. Sanford asked if the width could be longer. Mr. Rice said he took the dimensions from what already exists. Mr. Sanford asked if the 6 to 7 inch width mattered, to which Dr. Chambers said only height matters for excluding terrapins. Mr. Cox stated his worries about the reinforcement of the funnel. Colonel Rogers agreed and stated the funnel would be difficult to enforce. Mr. Knott asked if the language could include a 'not to exceed' phrase to allow for a buffer for smaller TEDs. Several committee members agreed and stated that allowing the regulation to be 2 ¼ inch or smaller would cover the 2 by 6 inch industrial standard already in use. Mr. Sanford made a friendly amendment to the motion to make it 2 ¼ by 7 inch and remove the choice of the funnel. Colonel Rogers stated that if the size is specified as 2 ¼ x 7 inch, law enforcement could work with the public if the shape was a little off. He repeated that law enforcement does not interact with recreational crabbing sector that often. Mr. Cox asked the committee to consider approaching this with the view of needing to repeat this discussion in the future.

Chairman Headley stated it might be better to start with the licensed recreational pots as a test to see how well enforcement works. Mr. Moore clarified this would mean the 5-pot license would not be sold without TEDs. Mr. Moore then asked how many 5-pot licenses were being sold with vs without TEDs. Mrs. Galván stated that roughly 60% of the 5-pot licenses were sold without TEDs.

Mr. Moore stated he would like to make a substitute motion that would eliminate 5-pot licenses without TEDs. Mrs. Schenemann seconded the substitute motion. The substitute motion was approved 8-1 to become the main motion. The motion to recommend VMRC eliminate the 5-pot license without TEDS passed 8-1.

Chairman Headley stated he would like the committee to recommend a size for TEDs as well. Colonel Rogers stated that law enforcement would follow what the regulations specify, but that measuring a TED inside the pot would be difficult regardless of size or placement. Chairman Headley stated that he would like to see a TED with a 2 ¼ by 7 inch maximum size. Mrs. Scheneman made a motion that a TED be no greater than 2 ¼ inches tall and 7 inches wide. Mr. Sanford seconded the motion. Mrs. Scheneman clarified the motion to be that TEDs be no greater than 2 ¼ inches tall and 7 inches wide in licensed recreational 5-pots. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief of Fisheries Management Ethan Simpson asked the committee to discuss the ongoing terrapin hot spot project. Chairman Headley stated the committee will need to reevaluate once the study has been completed. Committee members agreed more discussion will be needed once the study is completed to pursue targeted outreach.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

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