

## Instructions regarding restrictions on the catching of blue crabs by recreational fishermen (Proposal)

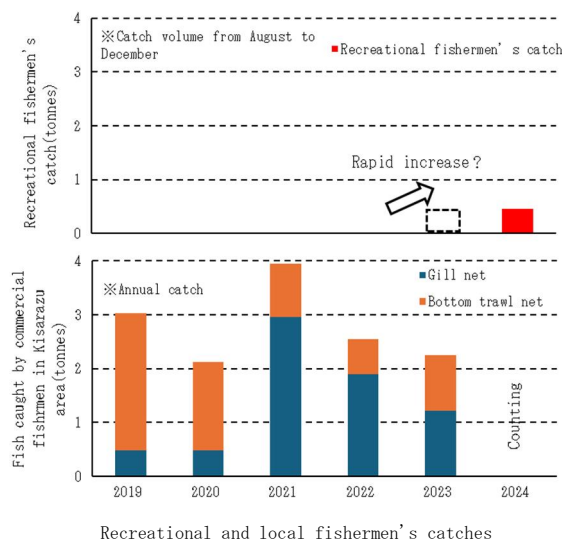
Since 2023, there has been a sharp increase in recreational fishermen who enter the tidal flats off the coast of Kisarazu, mainly at low tide at night in the fall, to catch blue crabs using dip nets.

The tidal flats which the recreational fishermen enter are fishing grounds protected by fishery rights and managed by the local fisheries association. Since there are concerns that this is causing problems for the management of fishing rights and that it may jeopardize the protection of blue crabs as a resource, restrictions will be implemented at the Instructions of the Marine Fisheries Adjustment Commissions.

### 1 Results of the 2024 survey on recreational fishermen's catch

- It is estimated that upward of approximately 740 recreational fishermen caught blue crabs between August and December.  
(The maximum number of recreational fishermen per day is about 50, most of whom are foreign. Dip nets, etc. are used and there is no violation of fishing laws.)
  - The amount caught by recreational fishermen was estimated at 0.45 tonnes.  
(This corresponds to about 10-20% of the 2-4 tonnes caught by commercial fishermen.)
- ⇒ Many recreational fishermen were observed this year as well. If this situation continues, it could become a problem for fishery adjustment. Thus, it was decided that restrictions under the Instructions of Marine Fisheries Adjustment Commissions were necessary.

#### 【Reference】



### 2 Outline of regulations(Proposal)

This incident has occurred because a large number of recreational fishermen have entered fishing grounds that are protected by fishing rights. In order to prevent this, restrictions will be imposed to the minimum necessary, and care will be taken to avoid imposing excessive restrictions on recreational fishermen. The fishing of blue crabs will be prohibited as follows.

(1) Restrictions on catching

In areas covered by common fishery rights No. 2 and No. 3, the catching of blue crabs will be prohibited at night from September to November.

(2) Exemptions

Commercial fisheries operating legally (fisheries with common fishing rights and fisheries permitted by the governor), and research and testing will be exempt from the restrictions.

(3) Regulation effective period

The regulation will be effective for one year.

### **3 Schedule**

March-April 2025	Public comment (1 month)
May 2025	Instructions (Proposal) are discussed at the Marine Fisheries Adjustment Commissions.
May-June 2025	Consultation with the Adjustment Subcommittee on the use of the sea.
July 2025	Publication of the Instructions
July-August 2025	Notification period (approximately 2 months)
September- 2025	Enforcement of regulations based on the Instructions