Diamondback terrapins, *Malaclemys terrapin* are a brackish water turtle native to the Eastern and Southern coasts of the U.S. Terrapin populations, habits, and responses to stressors are poorly understood and it is thought that there may be many long-term threats to their survival. Terrapin are a sensitive resource. Pressures include: wide variety of birds, a healthy population of human subsidized predators, and common foragers. A ban on the commercial harvest of terrapins in Maryland was imposed by legislative action in 2007.

Investigating terrapin populations and promoting species stewardship in Maryland's coastal bays by:

1. Compiling existing data
2. Terrapin Head Count Surveys
3. Ghost Crab Pot Collection
4. Crab Pot Vendor Surveys to encourage state law compliance

### 1. Compiling Existing Data

- MCBP compiled data from fisheries surveys
- Seine and trawl
- Sites sampled by DNR from 1989-2010. Circled sites indicate locations where terrapin were collected over that time period.

### 2. Citizen Science: Terrapin Head Count Survey

- Description of rapid assessment technique using head count surveys.
- Development of a rapid assessment technique for diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) populations using head-count surveys.
- Eagle Snare Method - Observation: 1. Monitor the area for turtle sightings. 2. Mark the location where the turtle was seen. 3. Record the date and time of the sighting.

### 3. Ghost Crab Pot Collection

- Ghost Crab Pot Collection Goal: 100% compliance
- Abandoned crab pots (terrapin icon) were associated with areas terrapin are frequently observed (push pin icon).
- 168 pots collected in 2013.

### 4. Crab Pot Vendor Phone Surveys

- Survey Questions:
  - Do you sell crab pots?
  - Do you sell turtle excluders?
  - Can we install excluders on your crab pots?
  - Put information about terrapins inside your crab pots?

### Website “Report a Terrapin”

Set up to garner interest and identify areas of terrapin use. Not successful & discontinued due to lack of interest.