EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017 ESCAPE RINGS WILL BE REQUIRED IN *ALL* CRAB TRAPS FISHED IN MISSISSIPPI WATERS
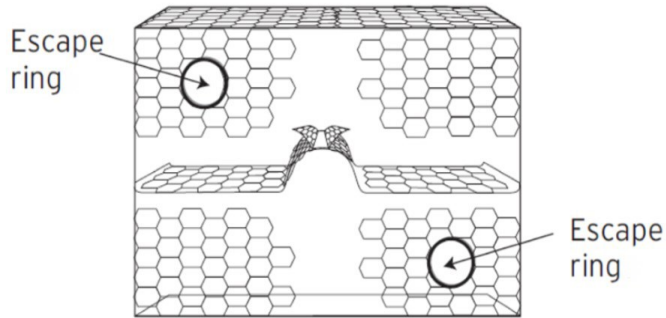

Diagram Courtesy of TPWD 2015-16 *Texas Commercial Fishing Guide*

Escape Rings should be placed on the outside vertical walls (not on the top or bottom of the trap), with at least one ring located in each chamber of the trap.

Escape rings were designed to allow sub-legal crabs (those less than 5 ") to escape from the trap. The use of escape rings in your crab traps will have a positive impact on Mississippi's Blue Crab fishery for years to come. Please make sure to properly install at least one 2 3/8" escape ring on the outside wall of each crab retaining chamber of your trap(s). The updated regulation requiring the use of escape rings can be found in Title 22 Part 4 Rules Regulations for the Taking of Crabs In the State of Mississippi Chapter 06 Gear Regulations (See Below).

To install Escape Rings in your crab trap, cut out the appropriate mesh (3 square inches) then secure the escape rings in each of the 4 corners by using zip ties or hog rings.

TITLE 22 PART 4 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TAKING OF CRABS IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI Chapter 06 Gear Regulations

115 All crab traps placed in the marine waters of the State of Mississippi shall be equipped with no less than two (2) escape rings positioned on the vertical outside walls of the trap, with at least one (1) ring located in each chamber. Escape rings must have a minimum of 2 and 3/8 inches inside diameter. From April 1 to June 30 and from September 1 to October 31, escape rings may be obstructed for the purposes of retaining peeler or buster crabs.

Escape rings will be available free of charge to all licensed *MISSISSIPPI RESIDENT COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL CRAB FISHERMEN*.

In order to receive escape rings at no cost, please bring a copy of your Mississippi Resident Commercial and/or Recreational Crab trap License to the MDMR Bolton Building located at 1141 Bayview Ave Biloxi, MS beginning Monday October 3, 2016.

For more information contact the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Shrimp and Crab Bureau at 228-374-5000