



BLUE LAND CRABS

REPORTING ILLEGAL HARVESTING IN THE TOWN

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH BLUE LAND CRABS?

During the State Water Harvest Closed Season, Blue Land Crabs **cannot** be collected beginning **July 1 to October 31**. After heavy rains, especially in the month of May, Blue Land Crabs will emerge from the Coastal Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay Habitat Restoration area located next to 18445 Old Cutler Road. The Blue Land Crabs can be seen traveling along Old Cutler Road, between SW 184 Street to about SW 188 Street, and other parts near the habitat. However, amongst all the regulation governing the harvesting of Blue Land Crabs, **it is illegal to collect them during the following conditions, regardless that it is open season:**

1) A person cannot attempt or collect Blue Land Crabs from the Coastal Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay Habitat Restoration area owned by the South Florida Water Management District which is clearly posted.

Florida Administrative Code 40E-7.537 (2).

2) A person cannot attempt or collect Blue Land Crabs from any State or County maintained roadway or the right-of-way, which is the swale portion next to the road. Florida Administrative Code 68B-54.005 (2)

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO ME?

The activity of collecting Blue Land Crabs causes safety risks near the roadways and unnecessary traffic obstruction /slowdowns and destroys the habitat restoration area as harvesters trample over protected plant life to collect Blue Land Crabs. People who engage in collecting Blue Land Crabs can generally be identified by their harvesting equipment which can be plastic 5 gallon buckets, nets, poles and other collection gear. During the evening hours, harvesters also use flashlights to search for Blue Land Crabs.

Those who are found violating the law may be subject to fines, including arrest, depending on the severity of activities observed by the Sheriff Deputy. The Town Sheriff's Office is working with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in these efforts and will be jointly monitoring the area for the harvesting of Blue Land Crabs.



Should you observe harvesters in the area attempting or collecting Blue Land Crabs, please call our non-emergency number at 305-SHERIFF (305-743-7433) or the FWC at (305) 470-6863, Option 7. You may also visit their website at www.myfwc.com and report the location of the observed activity.

Cutler Bay Municipal District
10720 Caribbean Blvd. Suite 200 Cutler
Bay, Florida 33189 • 305-234-4237