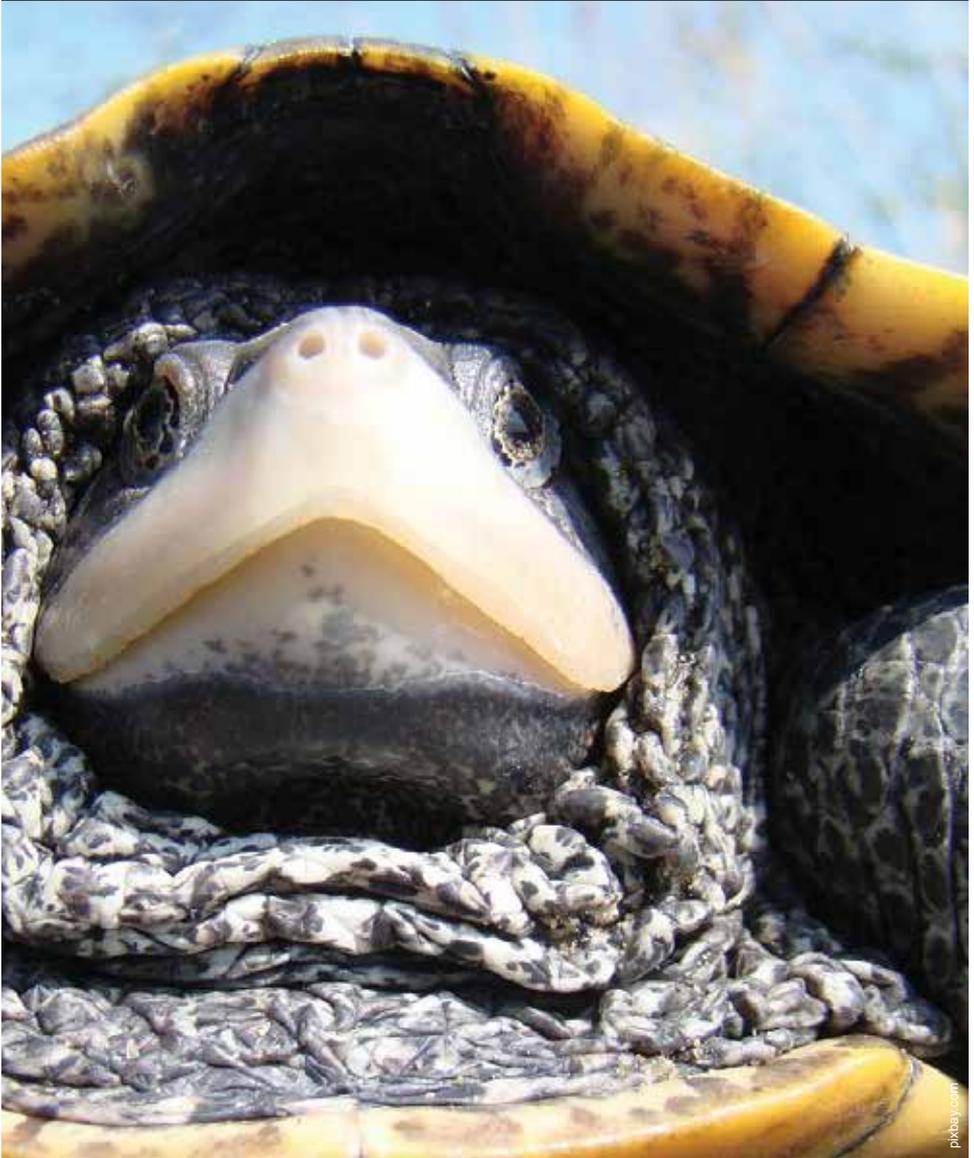
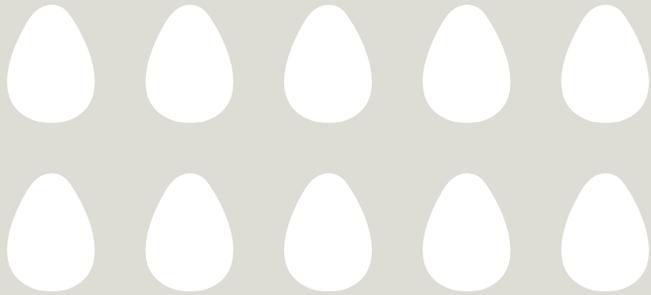


# DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

Help Protect A Species of Concern



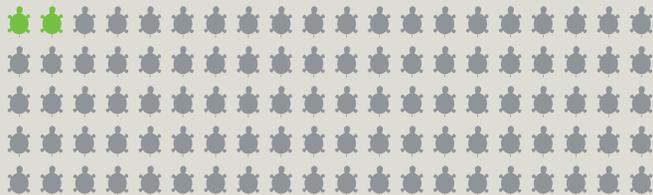
## LIFE FOR A DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN IS TOUGH AS IT IS...



**AN AVERAGE OF 10 EGGS ARE LAID PER CLUTCH**



**2% OF THESE EGGS PRODUCE A HATCHLING**



**2% OF HATCHLINGS REACH ADULTHOOD**

## ...BUT WE SHOULDN'T MAKE IT TOUGHER

Diamondback terrapin turtles face many threats, making them a “species of concern” in Virginia. You wouldn’t think something as simple as walking your dog without a leash would cause any harm, but it does. Humans effect the turtles’ habitat more than we realize and as a result, their population is shrinking.

### WILDLIFE & PETS

While natural predators such as foxes, raccoons, and other wildlife cannot be stopped from disrupting terrapin nests, our own pets often create the same amount of disruption. Dogs being walked while not on a leash tend to come across terrapin nests and try to dig up the eggs.



### CRAB POTS

Due to sharing similar diets, terrapins are often lured into crab pots. Once inside a crab pot, the terrapin is trapped and cannot get out, and drowns. Virginia Code 28.2-226.2 was recently modified and now requires a holder of a recreational 5 crab pot license purchased after 7/1/16 to install a By-catch Reduction Device (BRD) - also known as a Turtle Excluder Device (TED) - in their crab pots.



## WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP

There are very simple and inexpensive things that we can do to help minimize the disruption of the diamondback terrapin's habitat.

### USE A LEASH

Dogs without leashes naturally tend to wander off, and when doing so, sometimes they come across terrapin nests and disturb them. This can easily be prevented by making sure you walk your dog on a leash within your sight.



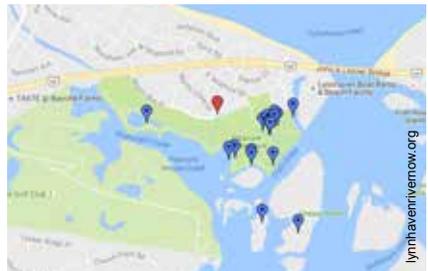
### INSTALL CRAB POT TURTLE EXCLUDERS

BRDs, developed by turtle conservationists, are rectangular inserts attached to the funnels that prevent large terrapins and other air breathing animals from being able to enter the crab pot. BRDs reduce unintended by-catch from drowning, but they do not interfere with trapping legal size crabs.



### HELP US MAP NESTS

You can also play a role in helping us find and map terrapin nests. Use the Lynnhaven River NOW mapping tool on their website at: [www.lynnhavenrivernow.org](http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org)



Learn more at [lynnhavenrivernow.org](http://lynnhavenrivernow.org)