



## Lack of visas hurts Maryland crab industry

March 24, 2009

FISHING CREEK, Md. (AP) - Because would-be crab pickers haven't been able to get H2B temporary visas, many crab processing plants in Dorchester County are expected to stay closed when the season opens on April 1.

And Chesapeake Bay area watermen want First District Congressman Frank Kratovil to do something about the situation.

On Friday, some 150 watermen and people representing other industries met with Kratovil at the A.E. Phillips packing plant in Fishing Creek. There, crab pickers, mostly from Mexico, would be working \_ but federal red tape prevents their arrival.

This year, the H2B program was limited at 66,000 temporary visas. None of those went to the people who had been working in Dorchester County's crab processing plants.



Every H2B temporary worker creates 2 1/2 jobs for Eastern Shore residents. (WTOG Photo/Michelle Basch)

---

Information from: Star Democrat Easton, <http://www.stardem.com>

(Copyright 2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.)