

CJ Canby, widely known online as "**Crab Dad**," is a seasoned commercial crabber based out of the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. Growing up on the water, Canby developed a lifelong passion for maritime life and acquired his first boat at just 12 years old.

Though he spent his college summers commercial crabbing, Canby initially pursued a career as a scientist after graduating. However, after three years in the scientific field, he chose to return to his true calling on the water, transitioning to a full-time commercial waterman and outdoor guide. Captaining his boat, the *Miss Paula*, Canby has built a career spanning over two decades in the demanding blue crab industry.

In 2020, Canby launched a digital media initiative under the moniker "Crab Dad" (and *F/V Miss Paula*) to give the general public an in-depth, authentic look into how American seafood is caught and brought to the table. Utilizing short-form video content across TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, he has successfully built a robust following. He uses his platform not only to document daily life in what he describes as "an alien world," but also to advocate for local American seafood producers, educate consumers on sustainable crabbing practices, and highlight the strict environmental regulations and ecological challenges facing the Chesapeake Bay.

Supported closely by his family—particularly his wife, who assists in managing both their social media presence and the delicate care required for valuable soft-shell crabs—Canby has begun pivoting his business toward the retail and wholesale sides of the industry. Through ongoing mentorship of aspiring young watermen and active public outreach, Canby remains a vocal champion for preserving the heritage and future of the commercial crabbing community.