

Do you want to help with a fun monitoring project?

Contact: Gabby Bradt

email: gabriela.bradt@unh.edu or 603-862-2033

We are looking for volunteers/ citizen scientists willing to go hunting for **MALE GREEN CRABS** around the Seacoast, NH and Southern Maine, but not JUST male green crabs- ones that are about to molt and the right size(30-50mm)!

WHY?

NH Sea Grant is interested in:

- A) tracking the peak molting season for MALE green crabs in NH.
- B) developing a soft-shell green crab fishery to control this invasive crustacean.

What do we need you to do?

1) Just go looking for these crabs a few days/week between May and end of June, 2017

- if you find them- collect a few, make sure they are male, measure them, use this **handy field guide** to see if they are in 'pre-molt' (which is what we want!), and take a picture of them- abdomen side up, send us the pictures, the date when you found them and the location- GPS coordinates if you have them, but otherwise a good description of the location (ex: Fort Stark , New Castle, inlet side, not ocean side).

2) Trap and sort and count 2x/week: If you have a trap or two and some time...

-We would like to know how feasible it would be to get soft-shell crabs this time of year. In order to minimize our effort-it is good to know how many out of the crabs trapped are in 'pre-molt' and how many are in 'inter-molt'.

3) Help monitor the 'pre-molts'- We will be holding some green crabs in outdoor tanks at the Jackson Lab in Durham- the 'pre-molts' need to be monitored daily so that we can catch them molting and removing the soft-shells as soon as possible and putting them on ice to keep them from hardening. We want soft-shells for recipe development.

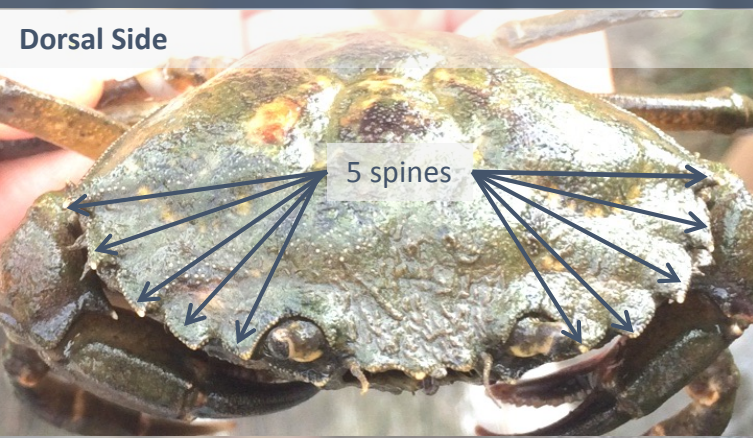


Do you want to help with a fun monitoring project?



Extension

Contact: Gabby Bradt-Fisheries Specialist
email: gabriela.bradt@unh.edu or 603-862-2033



WHAT: Looking for volunteers to go hunting for **MALE GREEN CRABS** about to molt and between 30-50mm wide.

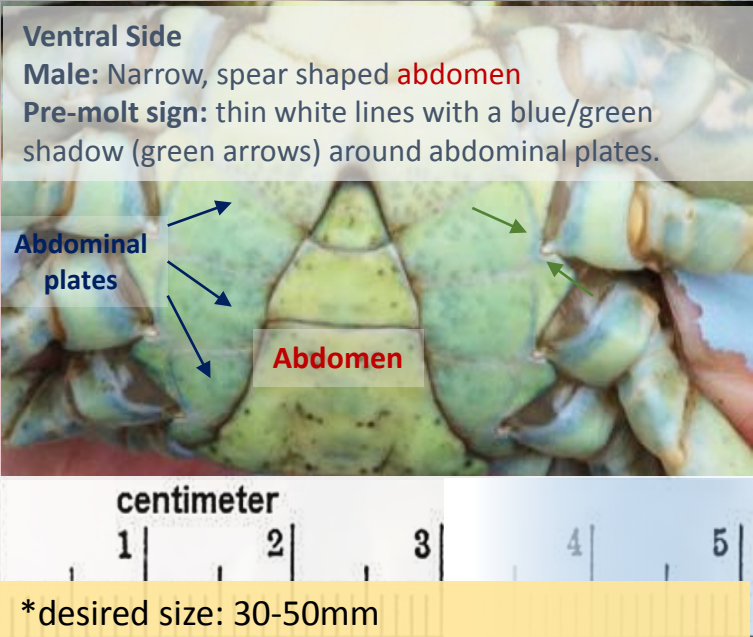
WHERE: Seacoast, NH and Southern Maine

WHY: *NH Sea Grant & UNH Cooperative Extension* are A) **tracking & mapping** peak molting season for **MALE** green crabs in NH & Southern ME.

B) Developing an 'eat the invaders', soft-shell green crab fishery to control this invasive crustacean.

WHEN: MAY-end of JUNE, 2017

HOW: Just go looking for these crabs a few days/week between May and end of June, 2017 . If/When you find them please send this info to Gabby Bradt at NHSG and UNCE:



- 1) **# of crabs**
- 2) **Date & Location**-GPS coordinates preferred, but good description of location (ex:Ft.Stark, New Castle, inlet side)
- 3) **Size of crabs**- only interested in 30-50mm size crabs
- 4) **Color of shell**-brown and mottled or green and shiny
- 5) **Shell hardness:** hard or soft
- 6) **Clear photo:** of the Dorsal (top) and bottom (ventral) side of crabs
- 7) **Your name, age, gender, town or county you live in, how you heard about the project.**

Male



Narrow, spear shaped abdomen- resembles the 'Washington monument'. This is a green phase crab- color has nothing to do with the fact that is male. Can also find red phase male crabs-you don't want these.

Female



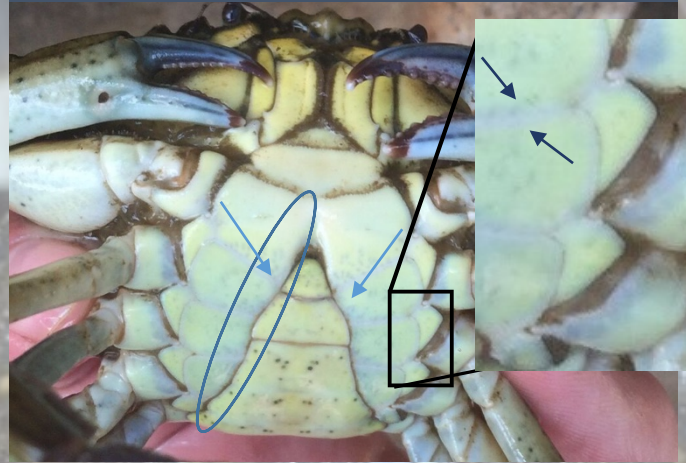
Rounded and broad shaped abdomen- resembles the 'Capitol Building'. This is a red phase crab- color has nothing to do with the fact that is female. Can also find green phase female crabs-you don't want these.



1. Intermolt



2. Pre-molt



3. Imminent



4. Soft-Shell

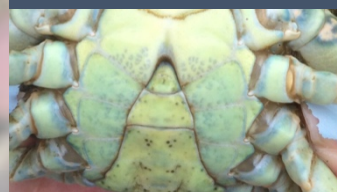


*desired size: 30-50mm



1. Intermolt: No signs of molting, or has molted. Shell is hard-**NOT OF INTEREST**
2. **Pre-molt: Signs of molting (see circled area and arrows) in 1-3 weeks- Keep/photograph, measure, report.**
3. **Imminent: Molting (note dullness of abdomen) in 1-3 days- Keep/photograph, measure, report.**
4. **Soft-shell: This is the desired end product. Crab is shiny, green and soft.-EAT!**

Male



Narrow, spear shaped abdomen

Female



Rounded and broad shaped abdomen

Molting crabs

