

Edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*)

Malacostraca (Arthropoda:Decapoda)



One of the largest true crabs (Brachyura) species found in Irish waters this species is easily identifiable at all sizes due to the distinctive black markings on the pincers. Even when claws are missing the 'pie crust' indentations on the carapace mean that this species is extremely unlikely to be confused with any other species found in Irish waters.

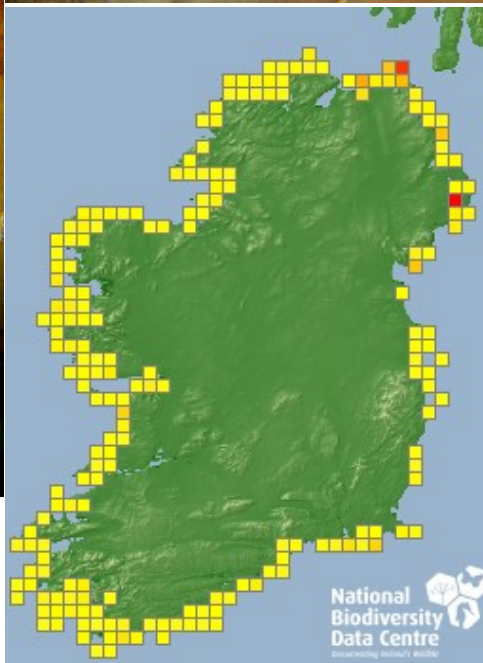
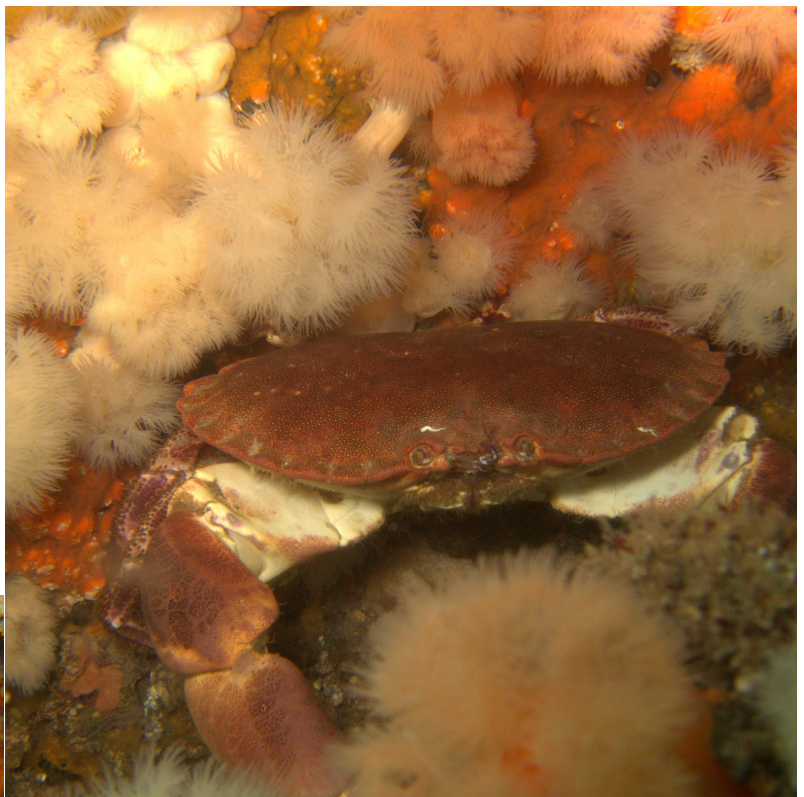


Found on all Irish coasts gaps in the distribution record are almost certainly an artefact of recording effort. Found from the intertidal to beyond diving depths and in a variety of habitats.

Arthropoda->Malacostraca->Decapoda->Brachyura

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not assessed

Found on all coasts of the British Isles and from Norway to Morocco this commercially exploited crab has a wide variety of common names. Brown crab are a non-quota species and can be fished by any boat with a potting licence, though a closed season and quotas exist for unlicensed boats. There is however restrictions on the fishing effort of crab boats in Irish waters.



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