

# Shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

Malacostraca (Arthropoda:Decapoda)



A medium sized crab typically less than 8cm in width, this species can have a variety of colourations, generally dark to extremely light green but may be reddish orange. This species has a flattened dactylus (last segment of rear legs) but it is not expanded into a swimming paddle. May be confused with *Liocarcinus depurator* (orange colouration) or *Liocarcinus navigator*. However this species is more common than either and they typically occur in the same habitat.

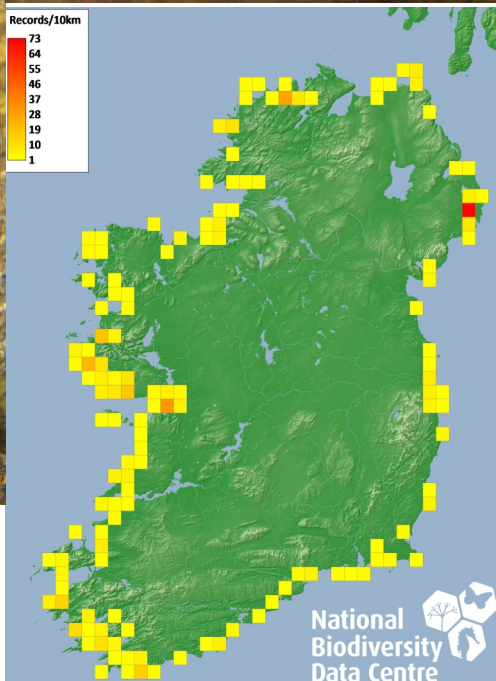
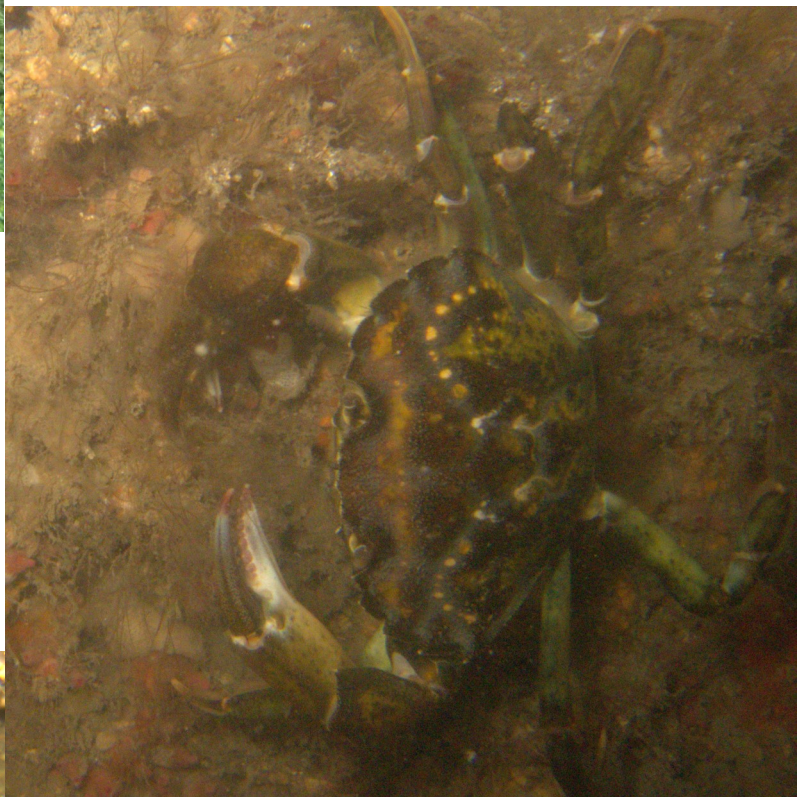


This species is found on all Irish coasts and gaps in the distribution are likely to be an artefact of recording effort. However on more exposed shores this species is gradually replaced by other species such as the velvet swimming crab.

Arthropoda->Crustacea->Malacostraca->Decapoda

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not assessed

Native in the north east Atlantic from Norway to West Africa this species has been introduced into a number of locations including the USA, Australia and the Red Sea. Indeed this species is considered one of the IUCN's 100 worst invasive species due to its impact on native crabs and aquaculture facilities. This species can tolerate a wide range of salinity and is often found in estuaries.



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