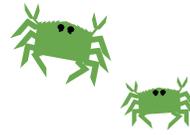


Great Green Crab Hunt



OUR OCEAN • GET OUTSIDE! • STEM

Kids are natural scientists! Curious, creative, and always questioning the world around them. Help us learn more about invasive species living on our intertidal shoreline by joining the Great Green Crab Hunt, an [NH Sea Grant community science monitoring project](#). Community scientists, or citizen scientists, help trained scientists collect data. We are collecting data about the number, location and shell hardness of green crabs at Odiorne Pt. State Park.

Materials:

- Camera
 - Ruler or measuring tape
 - Paper/pencil to write down details about the crabs you find
 - [Green Crab Identification Guide](#)
- Optional:* water shoes, water bottle, sunscreen, clipboard

Step One: Prepare

1. Gather all your materials!
2. Which coastline will you explore? Green crabs like rocky beaches. Look for a rocky beach that is easy to access.
3. You will find more crabs at low and mid-tide, so be sure to check the [local tide charts](#) before heading out to explore.

Step Two: Time to Hunt!

1. Look under rocks and seaweed, and between rocky crevices for green crabs.
2. When you find a green crab, use your identification guide to determine:
 - a. Is it a green crab?
 - b. Is it male or female?
 - c. How big is it?
 - d. How hard is the shell?
3. Take two photos
 - a. Top of shell (dorsal side)
 - b. Bottom of shell (ventral side)
4. Return crabs where you found them and be sure not to count the same crab twice!

Step Three: Log your Data

1. [Follow this link](#) to submit your findings and photos.
2. **Thank You!** As a community scientist, you are helping us learn more about our local ecosystems. Scientists will use your findings to develop plans to help us keep these systems healthy and balanced. You can learn more about this project below.



Helpful Tips:

- ★ Rocks and seaweed are slippery, so be careful!
- ★ Pay attention to the water levels and never place your back to the waves.
- ★ Leave No Trace! Always place rocks, seaweed and creatures back where you found them.
- ★ The more comfortable you are, the longer you will be able to explore and hunt for crabs! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy water shoes.
- ★ You may also want to bring a snack and a water bottle along for yourself.

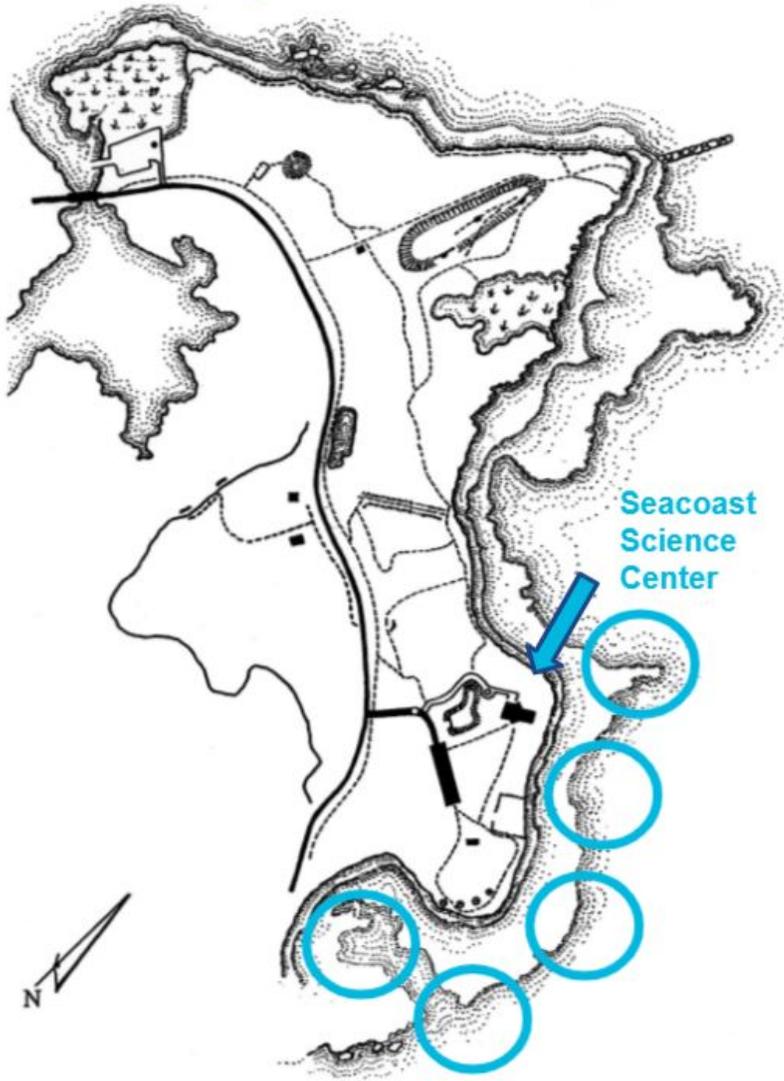


SEACOAST
SCIENCE CENTER

INSPIRING CONSERVATION OF OUR BLUE PLANET



Where can you find the tide pools?



What is a Tide Pool?

A tide pool is a small pocket of water that gets trapped in the rocks at low tide. A tide pool gives you an amazing window into who and what lives under the water. There are three zones (high, middle, and low) created as the tide goes out over a six hour period. The high tide zone has more air exposure throughout the day and the low tide zone has less. Come explore all three zones and find the special adaptations of the plants and animals that live there!

Why monitor green crabs?

Carcinus Maenus, the green crab, is an invasive species that has been causing damage to local fisheries and coastal ecosystems for decades. With ocean temperatures on the rise, green crab populations are increasing.

One solution is to eat the crabs! To efficiently harvest soft-shelled crabs, we need to know when males and females are molting. Right after a crab molts, its shell is very soft – this is just the right time to harvest.



Green Crab Monitoring Project Field Guide



Can you tell if a crab is male or female?

Look for molts and sheds when you explore

