



## Blue Crab

*Callinectes sapidus*

### **Description:**

- ❖ Olive to blue/green above
- ❖ Claws bright blue underneath; females have red tipped claws
- ❖ Shell twice as wide as it is long
- ❖ 9 marginal teeth; 9th is a long strong spine
- ❖ Last pair of legs, called swimmerets, are paddle shaped

### **Size:**

- ❖ Up to 9 inches from tip to tip of longest spines

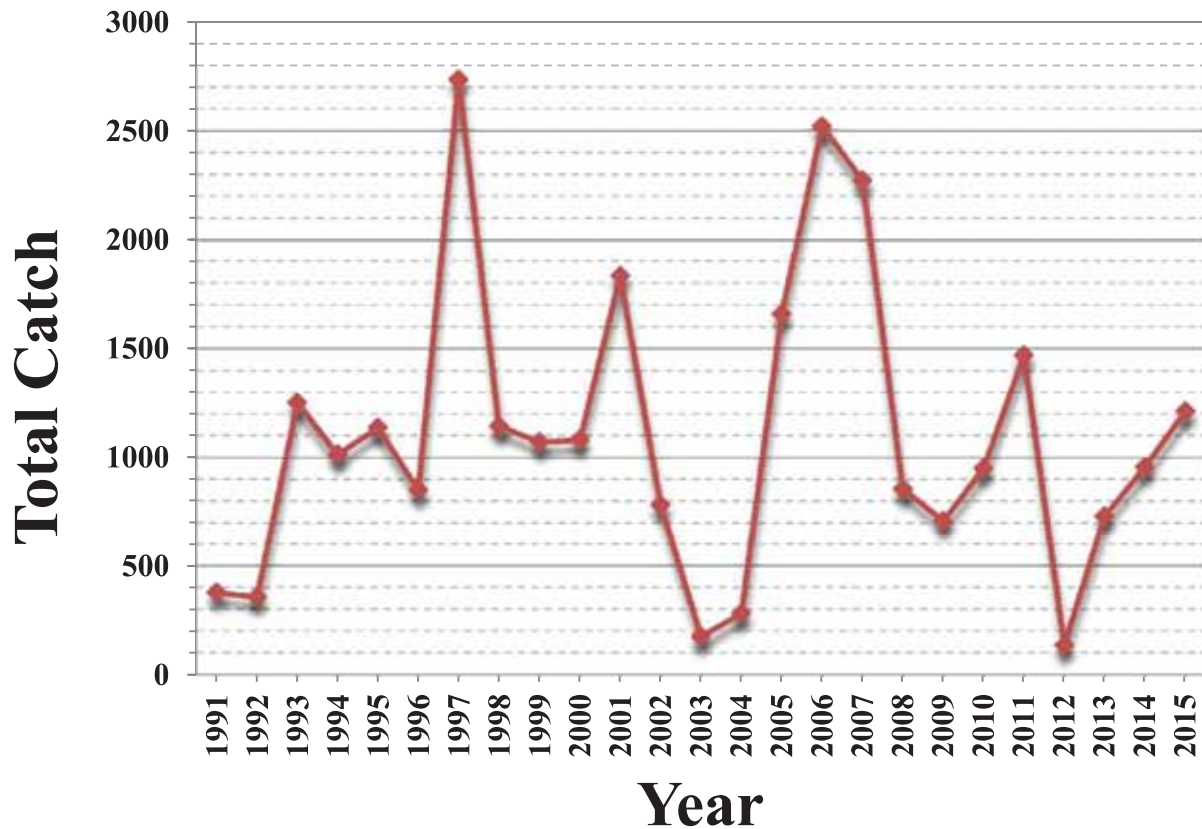
### **Range:**

- ❖ Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Uruguay

### **Facts:**

- ❖ Important commercial species
- ❖ Breed in salt water
- ❖ Migrate to deeper waters in winter
- ❖ Females only mate once in their lifetime
- ❖ Average lifespan is 3 years

## Delaware Bay Trawl Blue Crab Catch 1991-2015



**For more information about blue crabs, please check out this article:**

Blue Claws: Crabbing in New Jersey  
<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2001/digmar2.pdf>

NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Bureau of Marine Fisheries  
[www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com)