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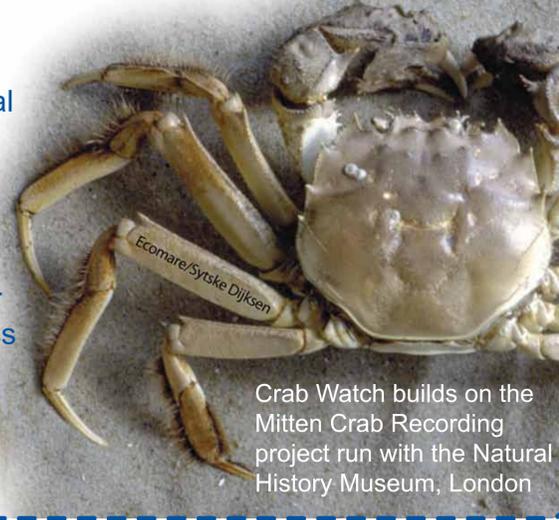
About

Crab Watch is a citizen science initiative aiming to answer questions about the distribution of crabs in Europe. It has been developed with groups of young people in the UK and European partners. 'Crabbing' is a popular past-time and Crab Watch harnesses this interest, using the opportunity to promote crab welfare and environmental good practice. For others, the initiative provides a reason to visit the sea and interact with marine creatures in a meaningful way, encouraging participants to act positively towards the marine environment.

Why Crabs?

Crabs are found throughout Europe in all marine and some freshwater habitats, where they often have great commercial and cultural significance. Whilst they play important ecological roles, the distribution of some crab species is thought to be changing as a result of warming seas and the arrival of non-native invasive species.

Several species of non-native crab are present in Europe or are expected to arrive soon. The project will raise awareness of the impact of non-natives and encourage people to consider marine biosecurity. It will also create a team of 'citizen sentinels' to report new arrivals and trigger any appropriate management measures.



Crab Watch builds on the Mitten Crab Recording project run with the Natural History Museum, London

Getting Involved



To account for tidal and habitat variation around Europe, a range of protocols exist. Ad-hoc recording of crabs. Is the core of the initiative.



This can be undertaken during any activity that results in the observation of crabs on, under or by the water. Structured survey protocols can also be downloaded for use in organised events.



- Printable Identification Guide
- App-based identification Guide
- Activities and lesson ideas
- Printable Survey Protocols
- Good Practice Guidance (Safety and Environmental)
- Digital and Printable Species Recording Tools

Data Collection Tools

Multiple data collection systems have been used including existing and novel tools, which has enabled wide coverage of data and has allowed comparison between platforms.



Download and print survey forms for use during organised surveys with groups. received by MBA by email.



Web-based recording pages created using Indicia. Records verified by experts and shared on the NBN Atlas via i-Record.



App produced by Natural Aptitude using Coreo. Records verified by experts and shared via NBN Atlas.



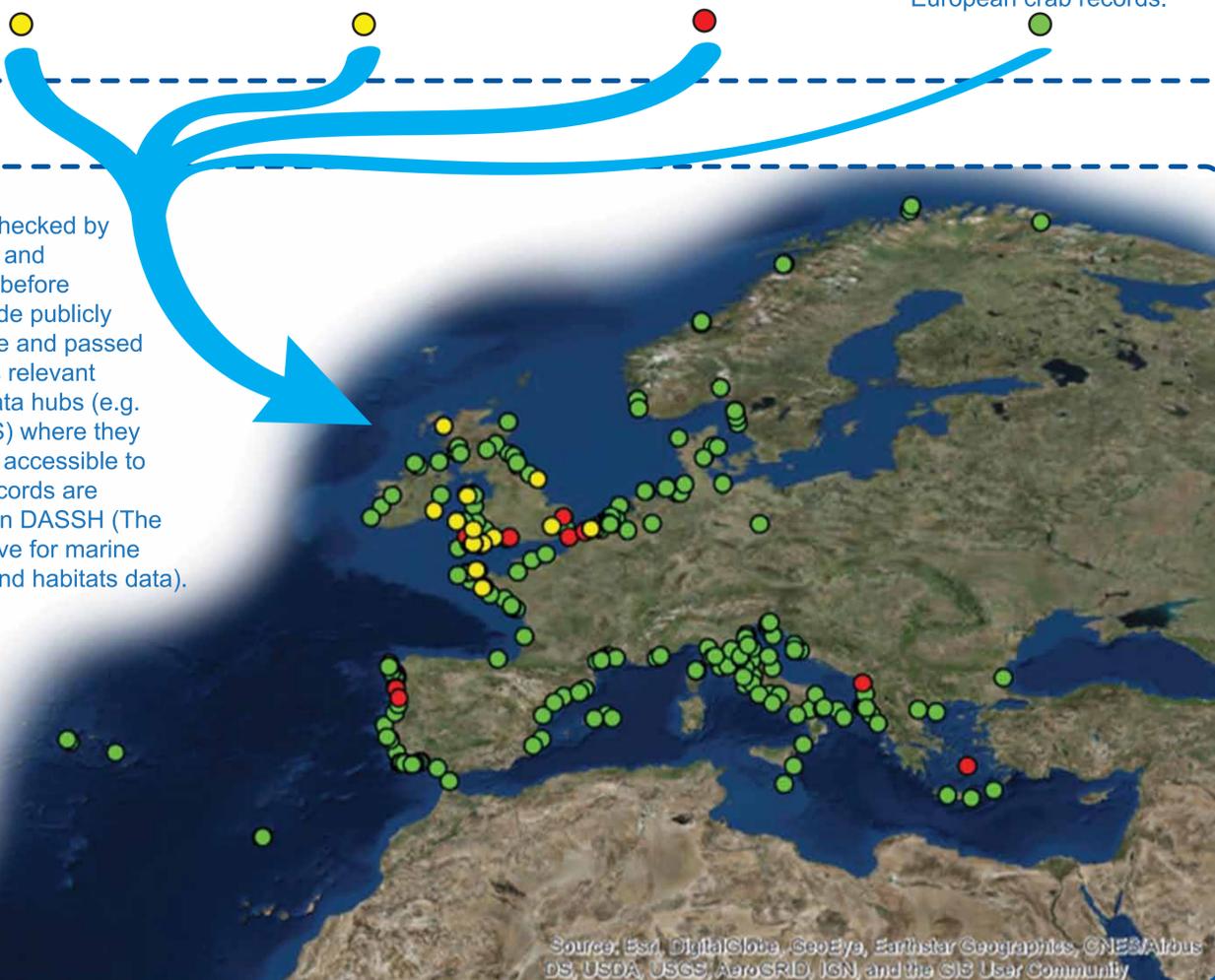
Online network for identifying and recording wildlife. A 'Crab Watch EU' project was created in iNaturalist to collate European crab records.

	Species Records	Effort Data	'Not found' Data	Life History Data	Quality Check	Photographic	Submit in field	Records
Crab Watch App	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	65
Crab Watch Web Form	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	404
Crab Watch Paper Form	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	>200
iNaturalist Project	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓*	✓	✓	809

* Community Quality Check - Not based on expertise

Data

Data is checked by an expert and validated before being made publicly accessible and passed to various relevant marine data hubs (e.g. EUROBIS) where they are freely accessible to all. UK records are archived in DASSH (The archive for marine species and habitats data).



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Highlights

The crab *Xaiva biguttata* recorded for the first time in the UK since 1956.. Twice!



Established population of *Hemigrapsus takanoi* found in South East England, representing a range extension.



More than 1,450 **Records** received and collated so far. from 13 **Countries**.

Over 20 **new records of non-native, invasive species**.

Identification of **UK first records for *H. takanoi* and *Planes marinus*** from audit of previously submitted citizen science data.

Increased engagement with marine wildlife: 59% of participants recording species using the app visited the shore just to undertake a Crab Watch Survey.

Crab Watch is part of the EU funded Projects:



#CrabWatch

