

Field Guide for Mission: Intertidal Crab

Male vs Female crabs: look at the underside of the crab. You will see different shapes on males and females:

Female: round and wide, particularly at the base.

Male: thin triangle or spear shape



How to measure carapace:

Hold the ruler across the top side of the crab. Measure the length of the widest part of the body (in mm). This crab is approximately 32 mm.



Hardness: Push gently into the middle of the carapace, or the top of the crab.

Soft: the shell will feel soft like jelly

Hard: it may move slightly under your finger when you press it or it might be so hard, it does not move at all.



Number of claws: will be 0, 1, or 2.
Count claws only, not legs.

Eggs will appear as dark or orange spots on the underside of female crabs.

