

# *Callinectes sapidus* and the Indian River Lagoon

Scientific name: *Callinectes sapidus*

Common name: Blue crab

Jacob Compagner

Arthropods and more specifically blue crabs are experiencing population decline.

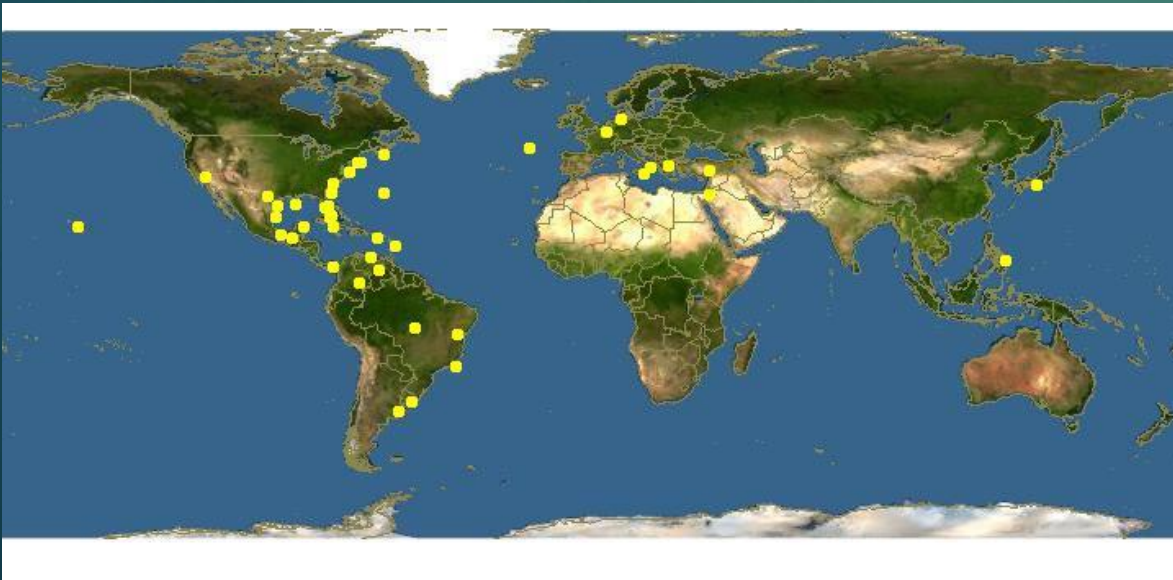
Keystone species

Predator/prey

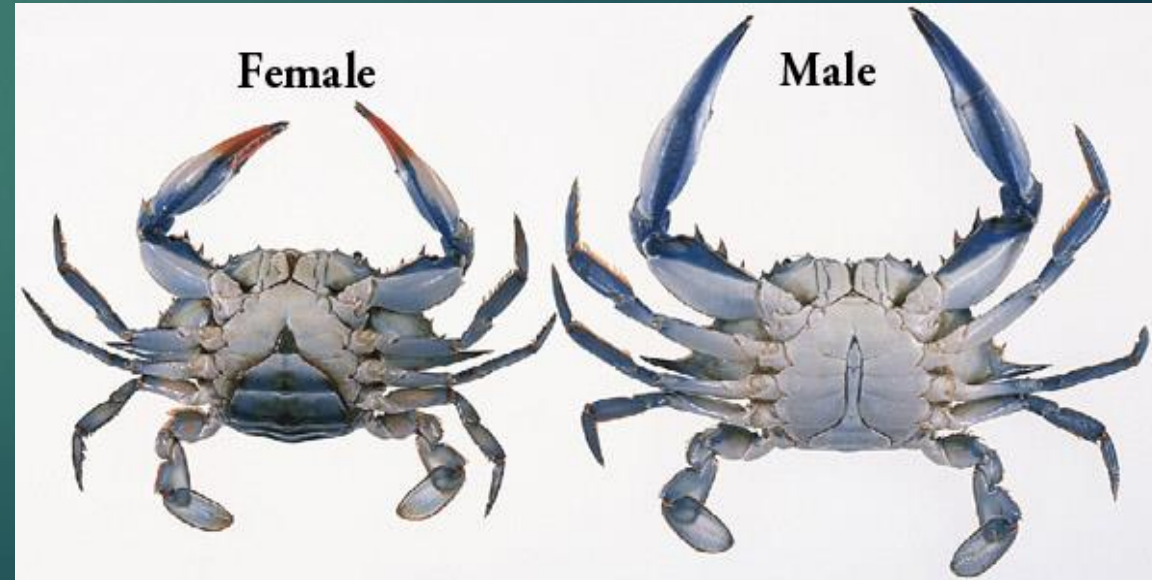
Controls oyster/clam species

Supports productive fisheries

Source: M.J. Rathbun



Source: Kathy Urffer



# Global Decline of Blue crab

*Hematodinium perezii*

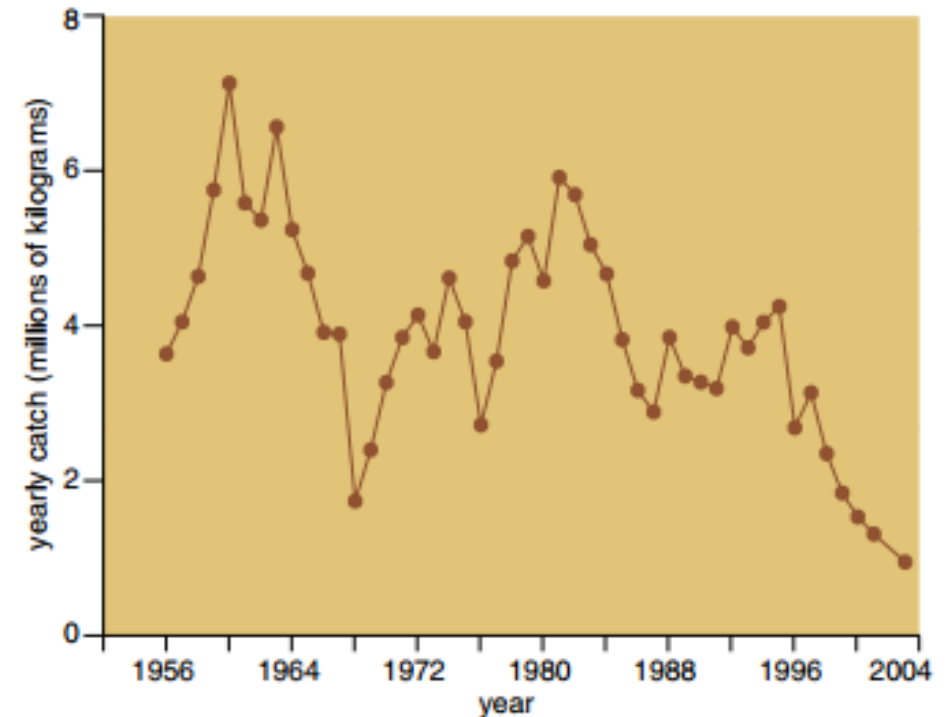
Attacks protein that send oxygen

Lathargic/suffocante

Eats other blue crabs/release into water

Tampa/Georgia

Source: Richard F. Lee and Marc E. Frischer



Human Impacts:

Eutrophication

Fertilizers/pollutants/chemical nutrients

Global Warming

Ocean acidification

Abnormal growth

Consumption increases

Decrease in meat

Increase energy in shells

Source: D.J. Pulver



Restoration:

Lawn care

- Fertilizers on lawn

- Shrubbery placement/native plants

Septic tanks

- Regular check ups

- Watch what enters drain

Recreational

- Avoid shallow waters/sea grasses/marine life

- Polarized glasses

- Use nautical maps/charts