



# 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; 9<sup>th</sup> 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

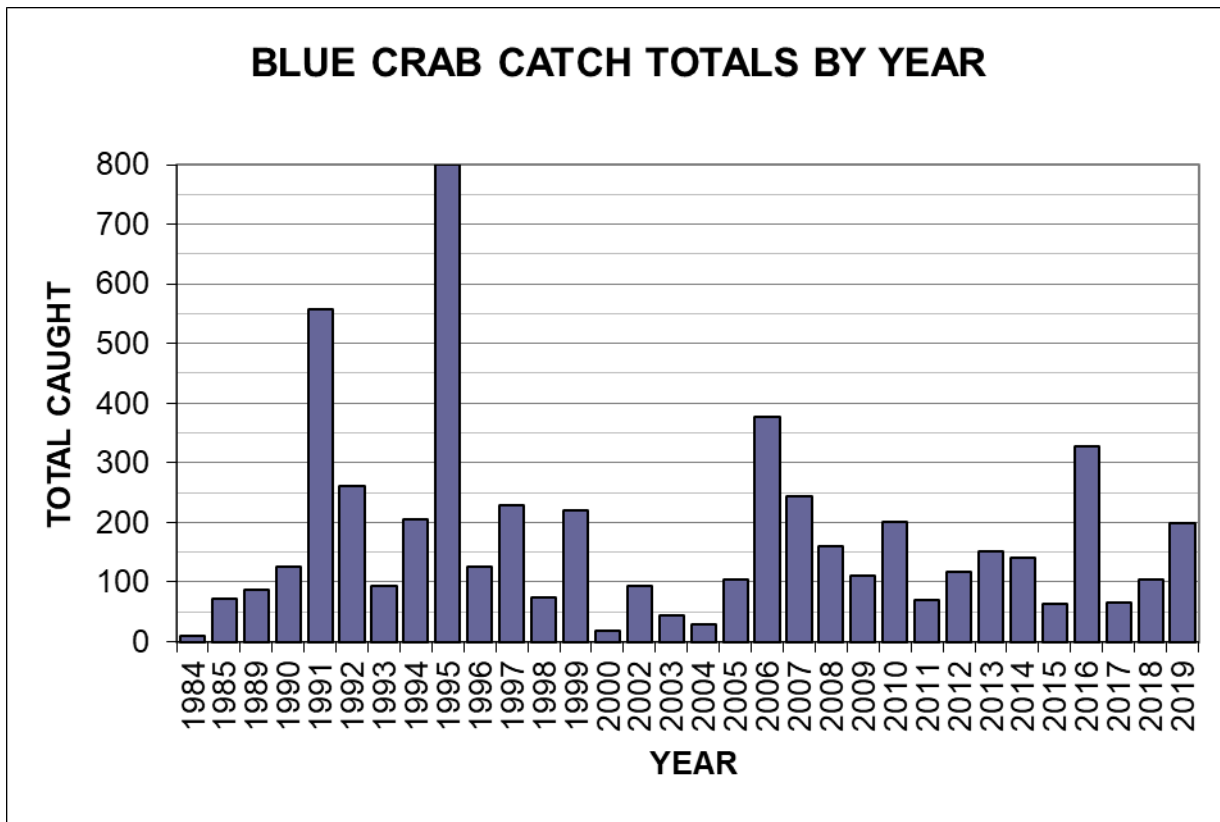
## **Facts:**

- ◆ 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



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**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>