



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:

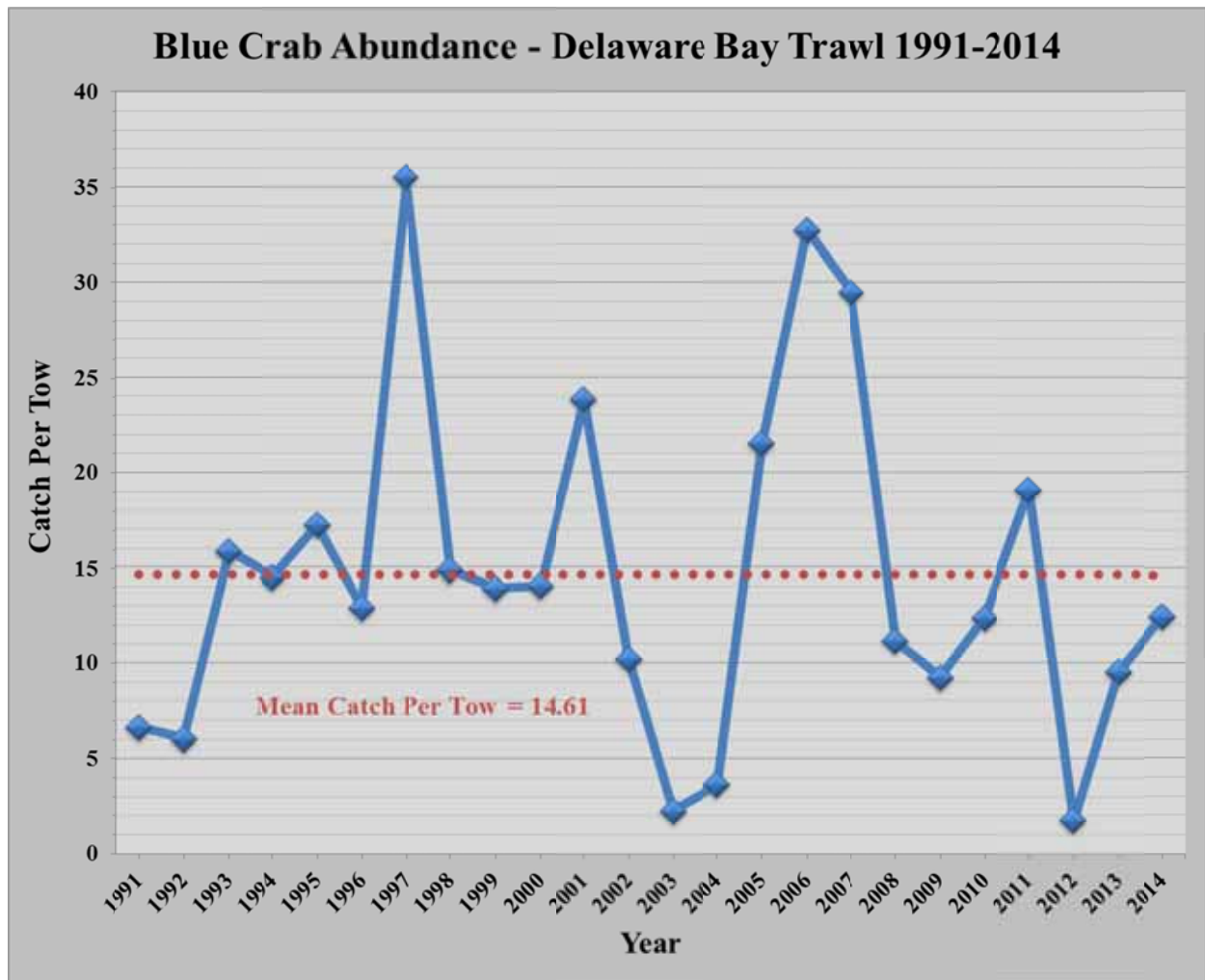
- ❖ Up to 9 inches from tip to tip of longest spines

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



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>

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