



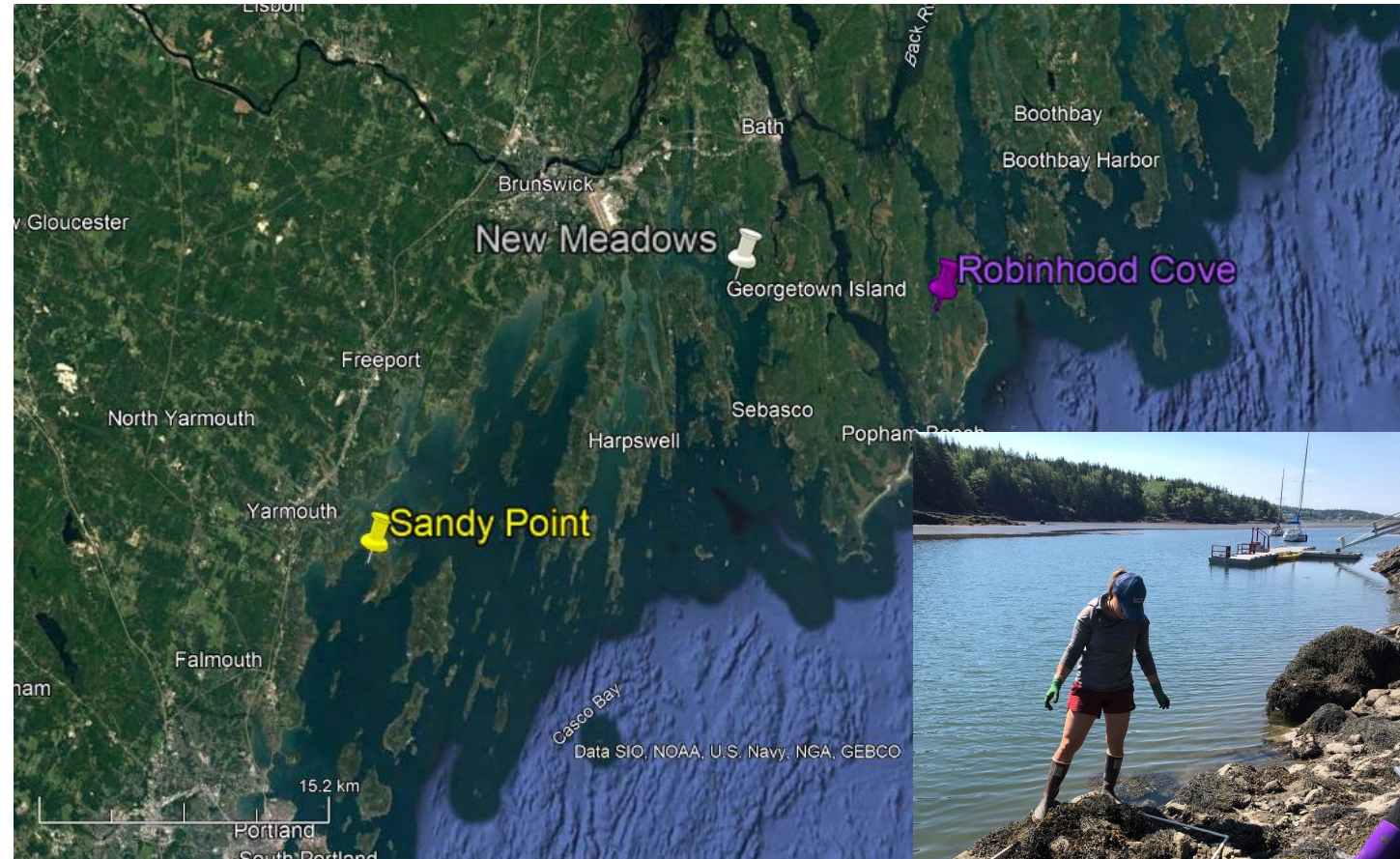
A crabby coast: monitoring green and blue crabs in the Gulf of Maine

Jessie Batchelder & Marissa McMahan
Manomet

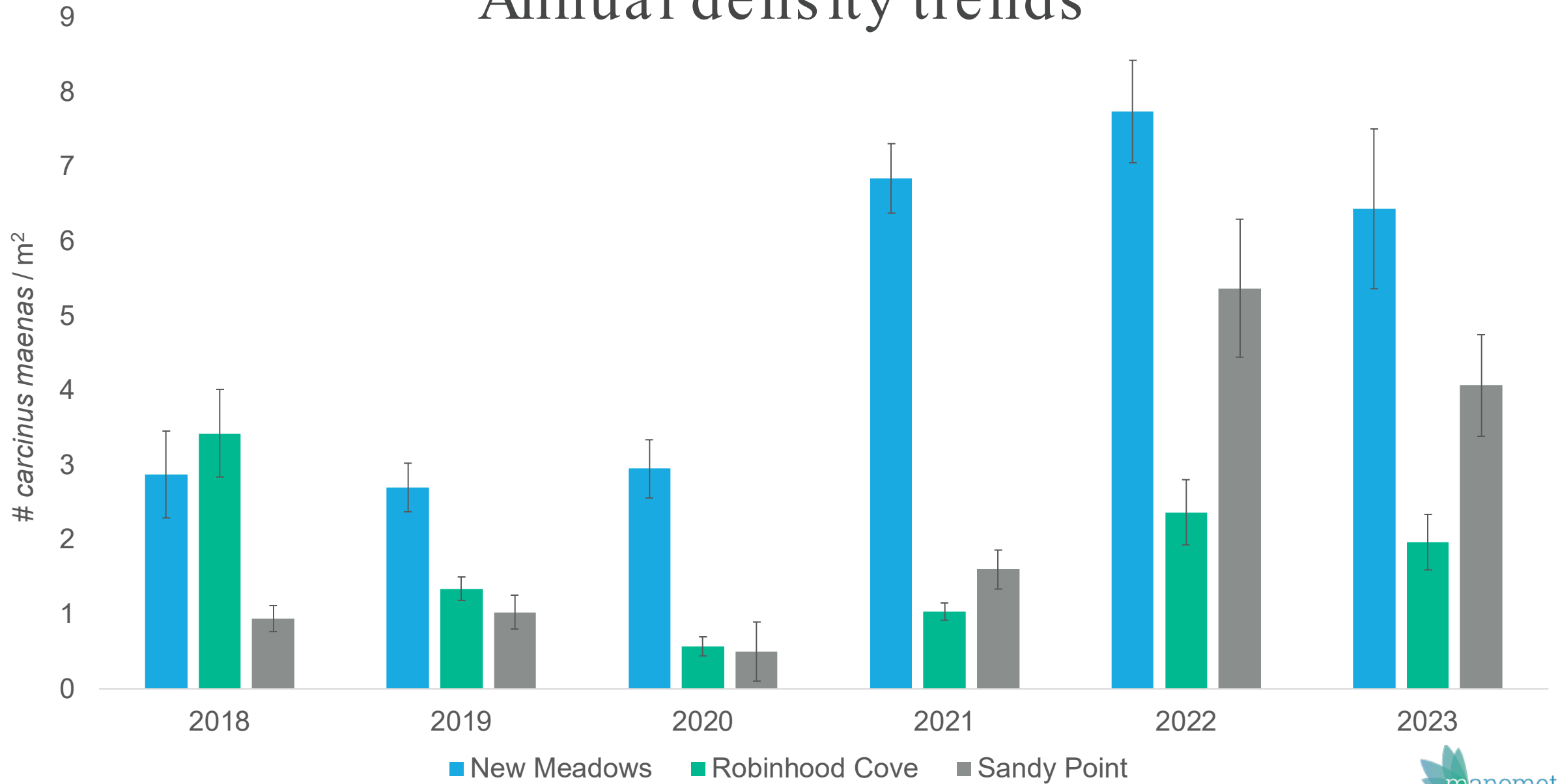


Long-term monitoring

- Standardized protocol
- Understand changing populations
- Management implications
- Habitat impacts
- Open-access dataset



Annual density trends



Green Crabs & Eelgrass

- Impact of crabs on eelgrass
- Trap surveys
- Mackworth Island & Broad Cove
- In coordination with other monitoring (water quality & eelgrass density)

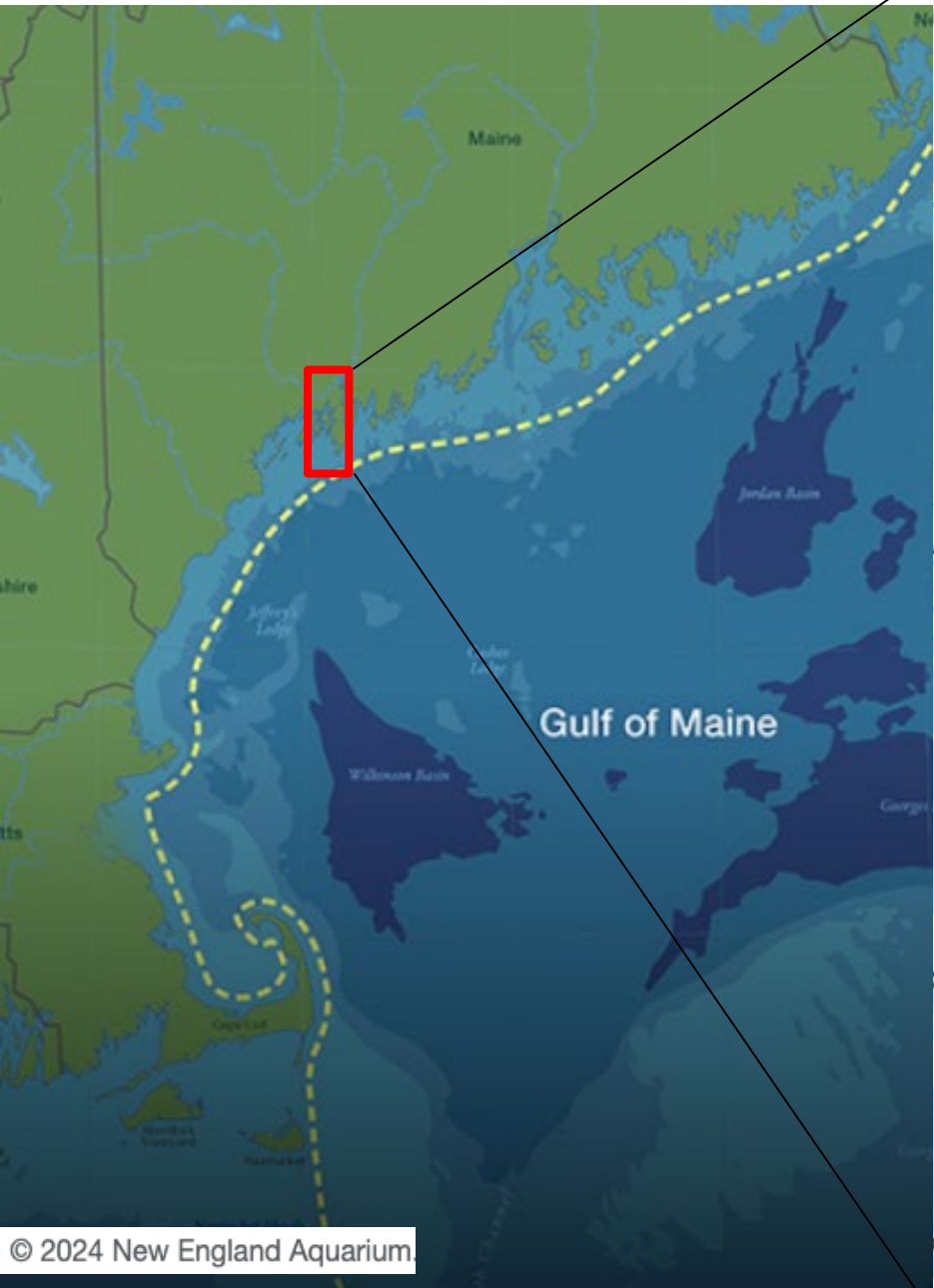


Goal: understand the distribution, abundance and habitat use of blue crabs



1. Trapping

2. Crowdsourcing

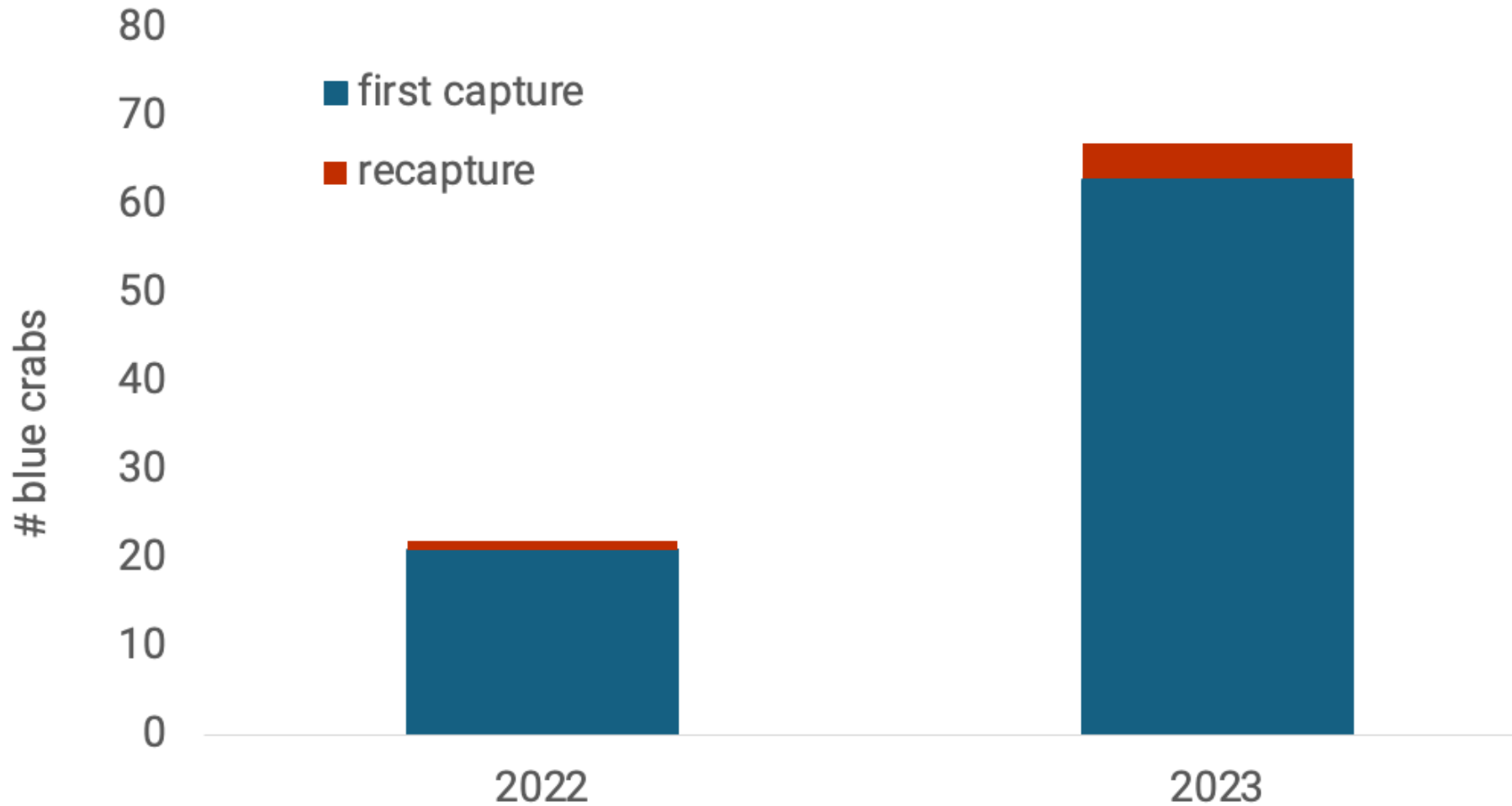


Trapping in the New Meadows Lakes



- Traps:
 - 2 traps
 - 2022 - present
 - Late spring – late fall
 - 7 day soak period
- Crab data:
 - Carapace width, sex, ovigery, molt status
- Tag & mark crabs

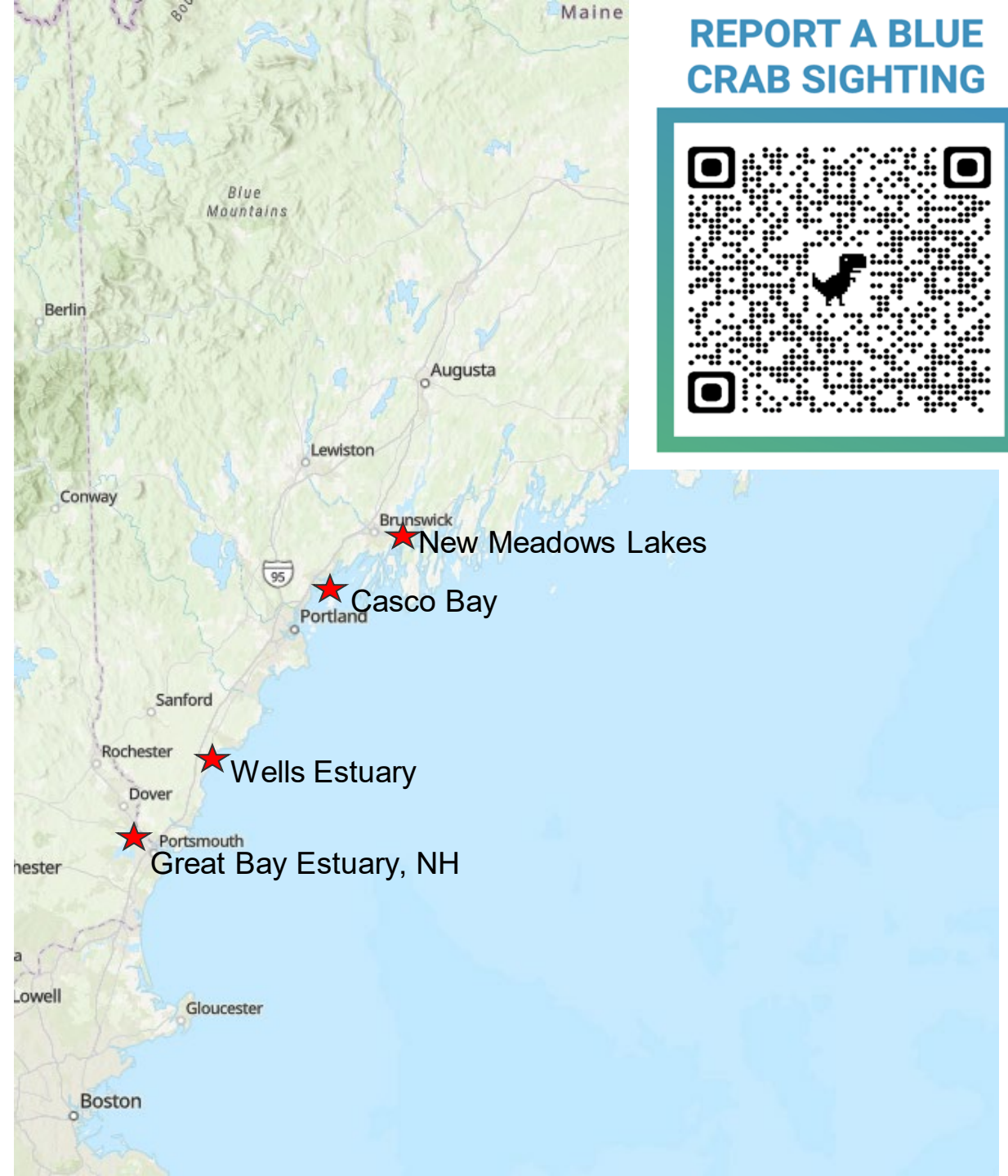
Trap Data - catch



- Crabs caught
 - 2022: 22
 - 2023: 67
- Recaptures
 - 2022: 1
 - 2023: 4
- Mostly males
 - 8 females
- Mostly adults
 - Carapace width:
~150mm –
170mm

Crowdsourcing

- Trapping only samples a small fraction of the coast
- Target community & industry members through trusted relationships
- Rely on fisher/harvester/farmer knowledge



Open Access Data: Blue Crab Sightings Dashboard

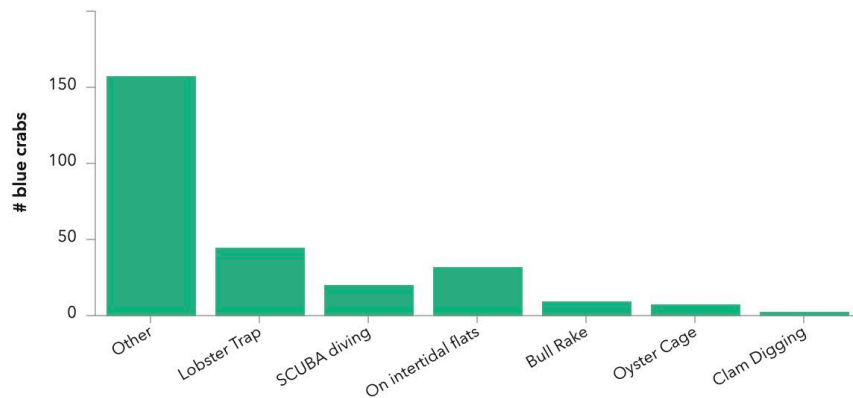
Blue Crab Sightings



270
reported blue crabs

121
reports submitted

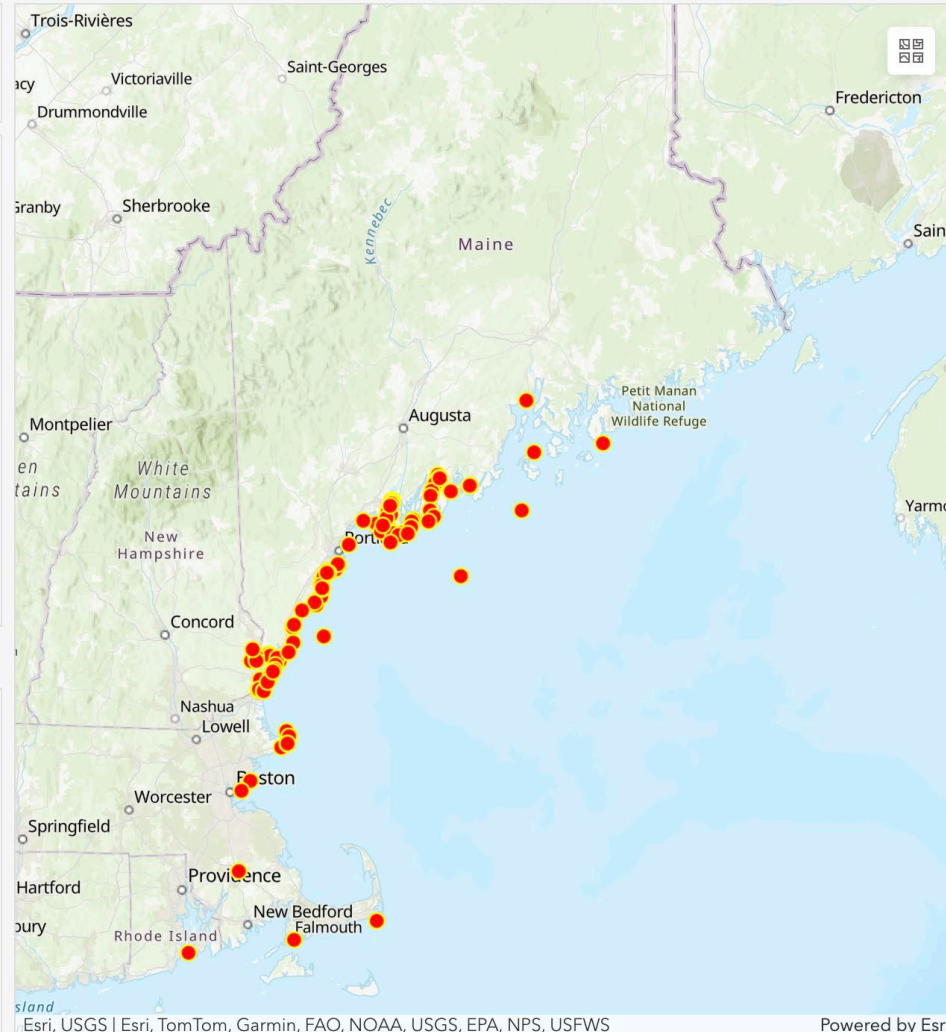
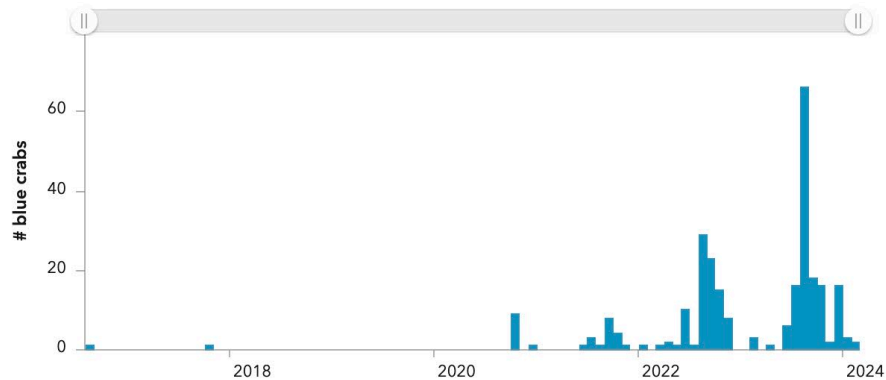
How are blue crabs found?



Catch Methods

"Other" catch methods

Blue Crabs Found by Month



[VIEW BLUE CRAB OBSERVATIONS](#)

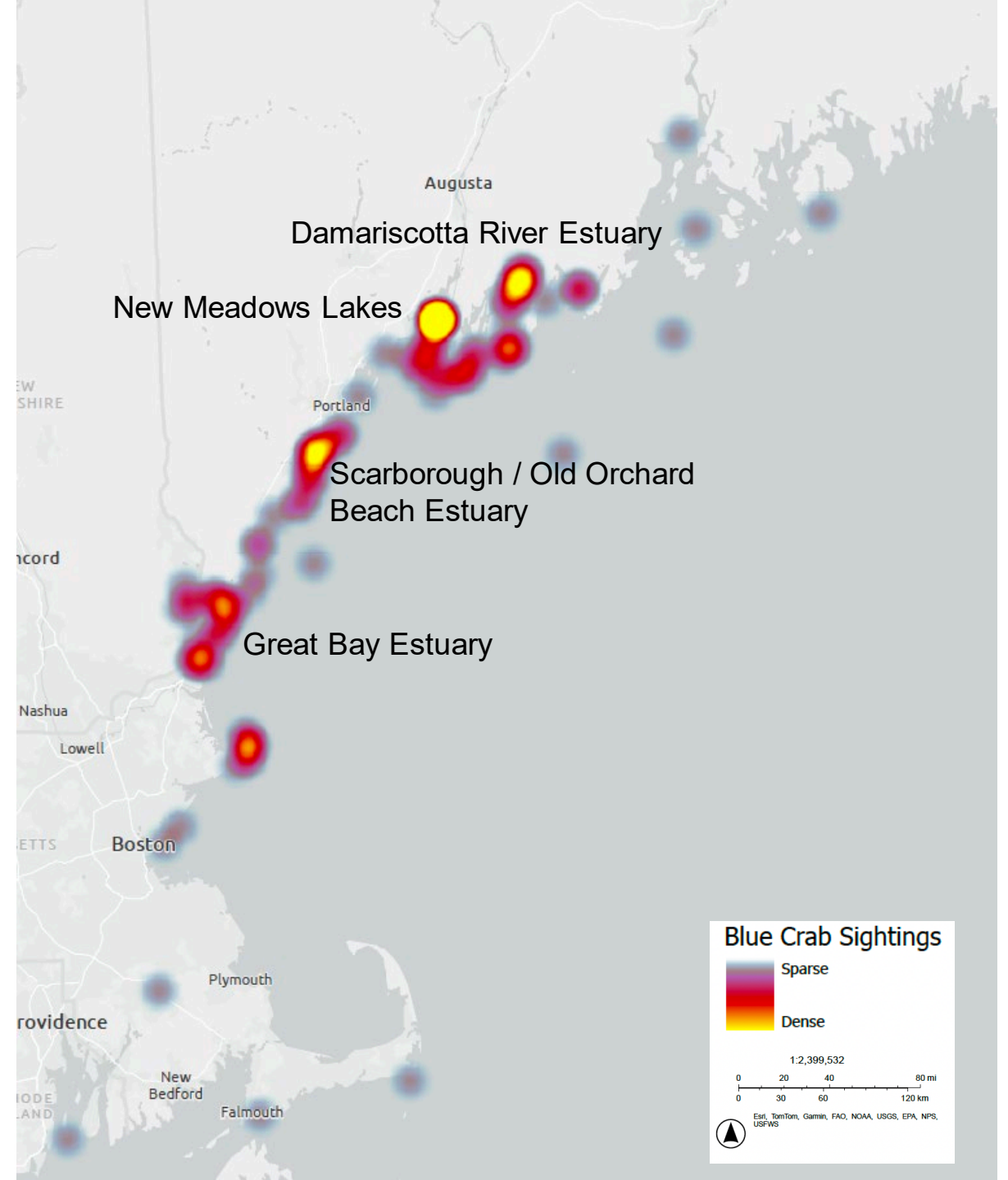


This site was prepared by Manomet in collaboration with NH Sea Grant. These data are collected through an online survey and displayed data has been crowdsourced through individuals who have observed Blue Crabs.

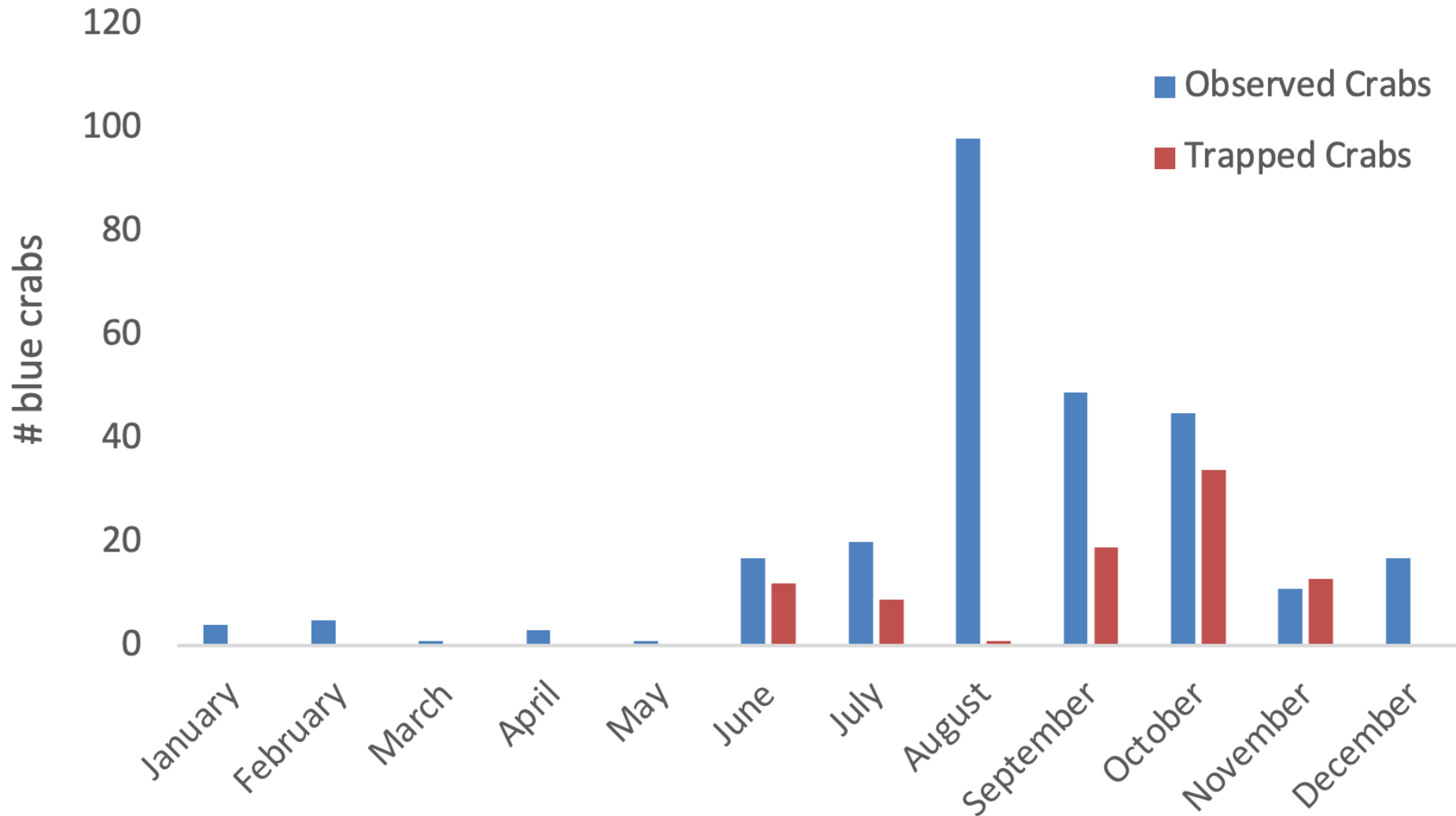


Survey data - heat map

- Locations of blue crabs submitted through the survey
- More crabs in estuary systems
- Areas where we have conducted more outreach



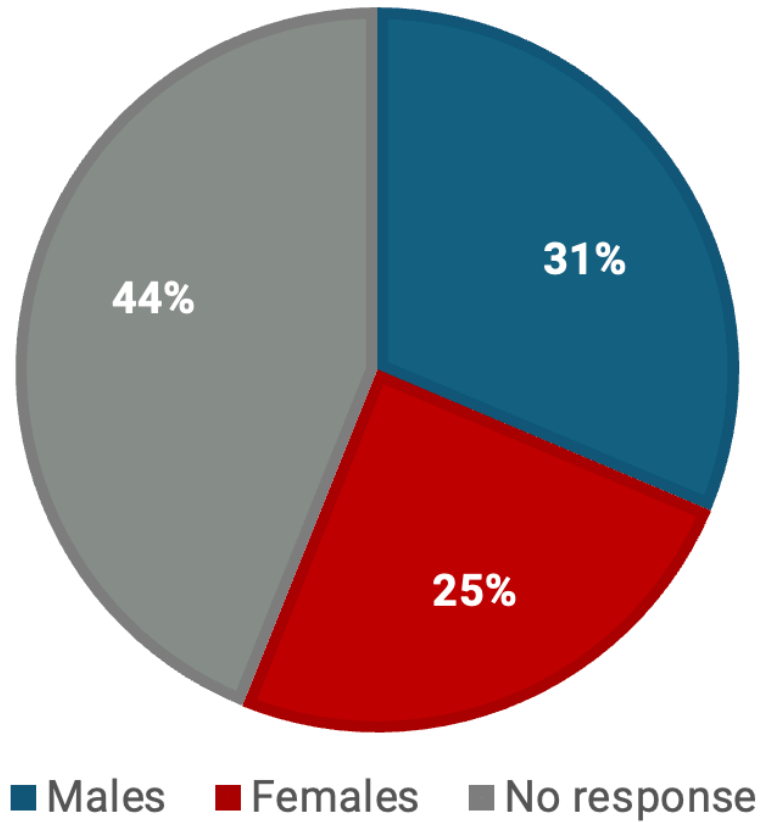
Survey data - seasonality



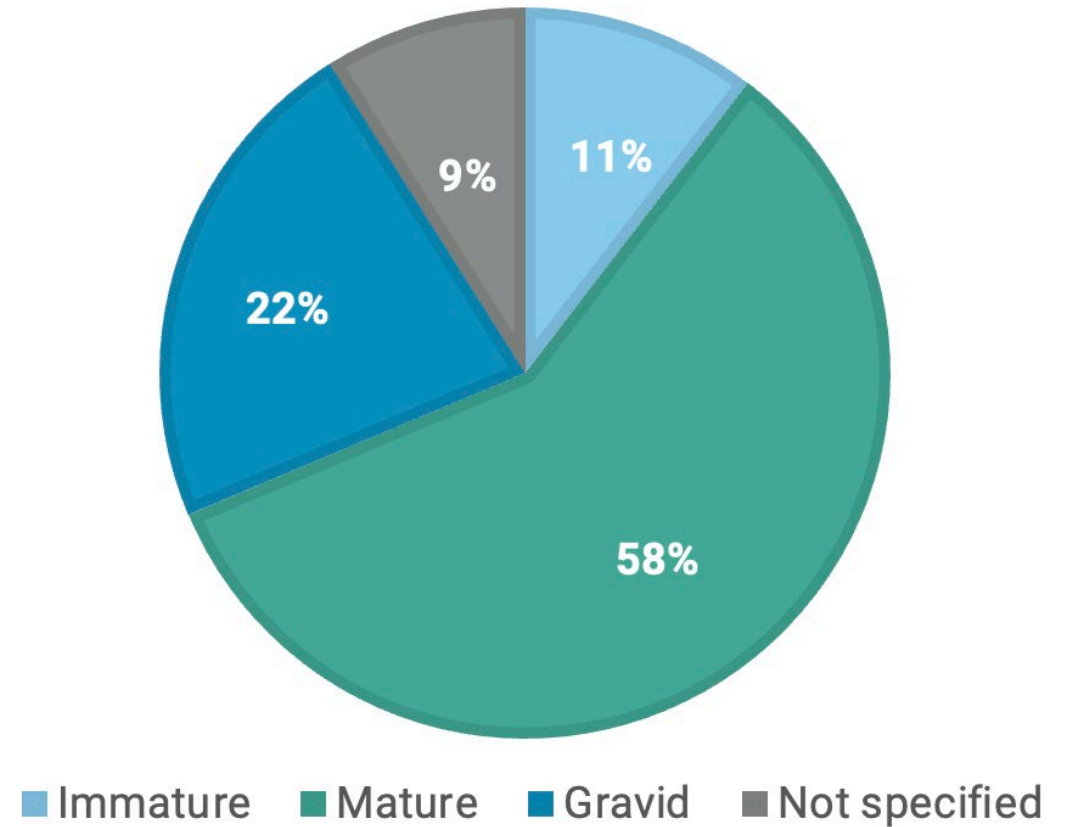
- Blue crabs are being observed year round

Survey data - sex

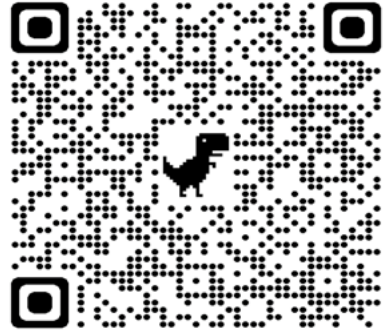
All crabs, n=271



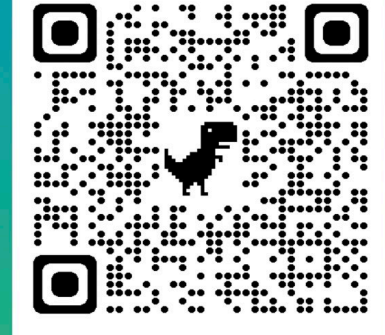
Female crabs, n=67



REPORT A BLUE
CRAB SIGHTING



VIEW BLUE CRAB
OBSERVATIONS



Questions?

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www.manomet.org/bluecrab

