



## Mitten Crab Newsletter: Update for the Mid-Atlantic (13 July 2007)

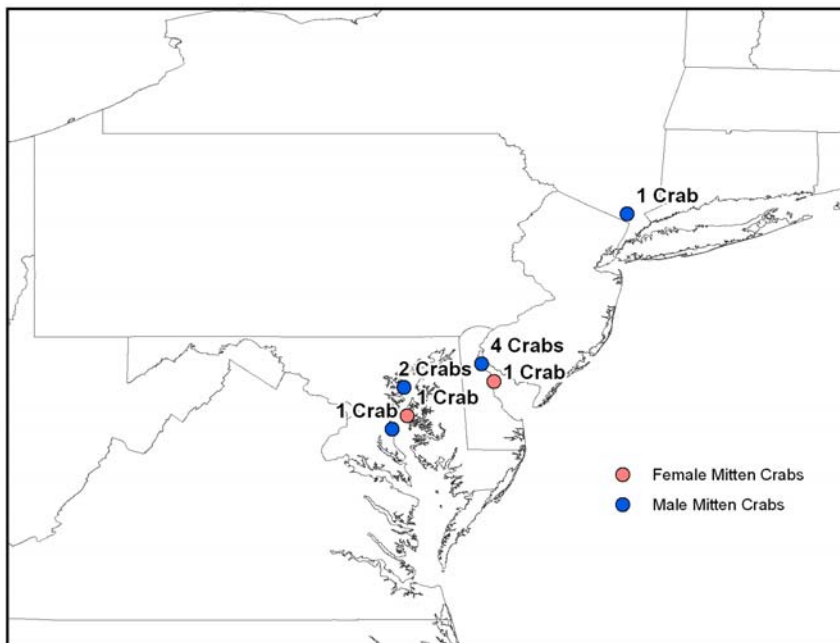
### Citizen Network Finds More Mitten Crabs

To date, ten mitten crabs have been confirmed in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States, occurring from Chesapeake Bay to the Hudson River. This includes eight males that were previously reported (3 from Chesapeake Bay, 4 from Delaware Bay, and 1 from Hudson River) and two newly discovered females. One of the female crabs was captured on 23 June 2007 in the upper Chesapeake Bay, and the other was captured in the upper Delaware Bay on 10 July 2007.

As with the male crabs, the two females were caught by commercial crab pots in shallow water ( $\leq 15$  feet depth) and reported to the Mitten Crab Network. Both females were mature crabs, measuring 66 and 63 mm in body (carapace) width without the legs.

Together these ten crabs were caught between May and July across three years, 2005-2007. In Maryland waters of the Chesapeake, one crab was caught in each 2005 and 2006, and two crabs have been caught thus far in 2007. All crabs from the Delaware Bay and Hudson River were captured in 2007.

The map below shows the location of the ten Mitten Crabs, which have all been confirmed with specimens delivered to us.



Additional adult Mitten Crabs were reportedly captured in Chesapeake Bay (2006) and Delaware Bay (since ~ 2002). Although these appear to be credible reports, we cannot confirm them, because specimens or photographs were not taken.

At the present time, we do not know whether the Mitten Crabs have established a self-sustaining population in the Mid Atlantic region. The two females had mated, as indicated by the presence of sperm in spermatheca (internal storage organs), and eggs were present on the abdomen of one crab. However, we have not yet found larvae or juvenile crabs, the latter occurring in freshwater tributaries.

The public is being asked to be on alert for Mitten Crabs in bays and estuaries of the Atlantic coast. Identifying photos and materials can be found on the following website: [www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine\\_invasions/](http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine_invasions/).

Anyone finding a Mitten Crab:

- note the location and date of capture;
- take a photograph and/or retain the crab; and
- contact the Mitten Crab hotline at [SERCMittenCrab@si.edu](mailto:SERCMittenCrab@si.edu) or 443-482-2222.