How to Molt Search
A Guide for Current Crab Team Monitors

Molt Search was started by WSG Crab Team in partnership with WSU Extension in 2023 to expand European green crab early detection beyond the 67-site 300-participant Crab Team monitoring network to all shorelines in Washington State. ***The focus of Molt Search today is on early detection of green crab on Salish Sea shorelines and monitoring of juvenile Dungeness crab populations.***

Molt Search methods are Crab Team molt hunt protocols, with some adjustments:



1. **Any shore, any time, any frequency**
   Molt Searches aren't limited to a specific site. Search anywhere you have safe & legal access, at any tide, as often as you'd like.



2. **All molts during standardized search time**
   Collection during both programs looks the same: all molts you find during the 20 person-minute timer focused where you expect to find the most molts



3. **Take a photograph**
   Lay out your full collection and take an overhead photograph, including something for scale. No datasheet to fill out for Molt Search!



4. **Count & measure**
   For Dungeness and European green crabs only, Molt Search asks for counts, sex, and measurements on any you find.
   Use the comments field for notes or questions on any other species.



5. **Data submitted via MyCoast**
   To submit your report, you need an account on MyCoast.
   The Molt Search option in the MyCoast app walks you through each step

Contact Crab Team with questions:

Molt-o-meter signup

Learn & explore via the Molt-o-Meter newsletter & reports on MyCoast.org
Molt Search has its own newsletter to share events hosted by local partnering organizations, green crab news, and program data.

webpage: wsgcrabteam.uw.edu/molt-search *email*: crabteam@uw.edu