



Washington Sea Grant Crab Team New Monitor FAQs

Timing

What is the time commitment to be a monitor with the Crab Team program?

Crab Team sites are monitored monthly April-September on two consecutive days each month (Day 1 to set traps, Day 2 to retrieve them). Monitors are expected to attend 9 out of the 12 trapping days for the season at their assigned site.

What time of the month does monitoring occur?

Monthly monitoring opportunities are constrained by tide timing, and within those acceptable days each month, monitors assigned to a given site together will collaborate to set trapping times based on their own availability.

How long will I be out in the field at my site each monitoring day?

Time at the site varies due to team strategies, site access, and monthly catch, but you can expect it to fall within 30 minutes to 3 hours per visit.

Site Teams

How many people are on a monitoring team?

Sites are monitored by set teams of 2-6 monitors, with new folks assigned as space opens.

Are there specific roles within the monitoring team?

Monitors from each team volunteer into roles of data submitter, "captain" (point-of-contact), and bait & gear steward (note: site gear gets overwintered locally by a volunteer, as well). Some teams choose to assign many roles to a single individual for the season.

What are Crab Team sites like?

Crab Team sites were selected for likelihood of survival for early green crab populations and for consistency across the network. They are typically salt marshes, tidal creek channels, tide flats, or lagoons, all which require some off-trail travel across uneven terrain to access. Many also require a walk across sticky, slippery, and at times ankle-deep mud. We do our best to match you to sites you can comfortably and safely navigate based on your abilities.

Do I need to provide my own gear?

Each team is provided all necessary gear, including everything from traps to magnifying glasses and first aid kits. Individuals should have clothing to keep them comfortable in the elements, that can get muddy, and they must provide their own footwear. We recommend hip waders to access most sites.



Recruiting

When are new monitors recruited?

New monitors are recruited in February of each year ahead of the required 3-part new monitor training series each March.

How likely is it that I'll be matched to a site?

New monitors are assigned directly to a site based on accessibility & proximity, returning site roster size, and timing constraints. We receive high levels of interest from certain geographies and minimal response from others.

I haven't been matched to a site. Can I still come to the Crab Team training?

Given the capacity of Crab Team training spaces, we only invite folks to attend training if we're able to match them with a site for the season. See below for other opportunities.

Training

How is training structured?

All new monitors attend a 3-part training series in March. These consist of 2 lunch-hour virtual sessions and 1 in-person practice offered at several locations across the region. These trainings are typically held during weekdays.

I'm not able to make any of the training times. Can I still be a part of monitoring this year?

Training is required to participate in Crab Team, so if this year's timing doesn't work for your schedule, we'll keep you on our lists to reach out to during next year's recruitment if space opens at teams near you.

I don't know anything about crabs or pocket estuaries. Can I still become a monitor?

Zero prior knowledge is required to participate in this program! We will teach you everything you need to know.



Other Opportunities

I'm not able to monitor with Crab Team this year, but I still want to get involved. What can I do?

If this year's training options don't work for you, if the physical or timing constraints of the monitoring network don't work for you, if we can't match you with a site, or if you just want MORE...

- Check out our new [Molt Search](#) program as an open-to-all way to get involved with green crab monitoring: wsg.washington.edu/moltsearch
- [Sign up for the Crab Team bi-annual newsletter](#) to stay in the loop on pocket estuary ecology & green crab happenings: <http://eepurl.com/b4gYn1>

