



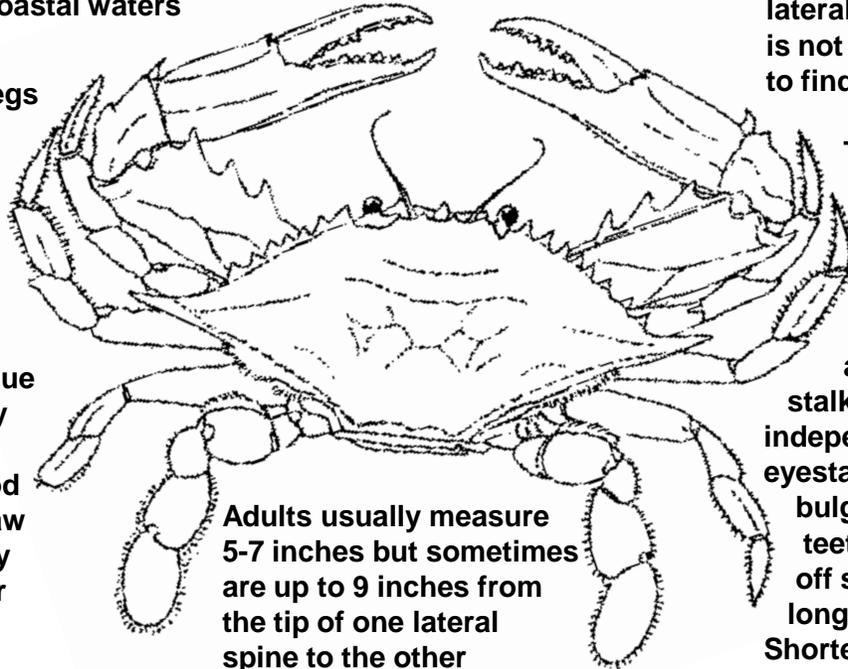
# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Blue crabs are common in Florida's estuarine and coastal waters

One tagging study documented female blue crabs that moved 500 miles in 100 days

Shells of adult crabs usually measure 5 to 7 inches from the tip of one lateral spine to the other. It is not uncommon, though, to find 9-inch blue crabs.

Blue crabs have ten legs include one pair that has claws and stout spines for feeding and defense, three pairs of sharply pointed walking legs, and one pair of flat paddles at the rear. Blue crabs can walk rapidly over the seafloor or swim sideways at good speed, folding one claw close against the body while trailing the other straight behind.



Adults usually measure 5-7 inches but sometimes are up to 9 inches from the tip of one lateral spine to the other

The front edge of the shell is serrated, or "toothed," with eight teeth on each side between the spines and the eyes, which are mounted on short stalks and can move independently. Between the eyestalks are two prominent bulges, each with two teeth on them, and pairs off sensory organs: two long antennae and two shorter antennules.