

Neptinus (crab)

Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia
Phylum : Arthropoda
Class : Malacostraca
Order : Decapoda
Family : Portunidae
Genus : Portunus



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics :

- The Neptunus crab, more commonly known as the blue swimmer crab (*Portunus pelagicus*), is a fascinating marine crustacean known for its vibrant blue coloration, especially in males, and its swimming prowess
- **Body:** Fan-shaped, with 9 white-tipped spines on each side, increasing in size outwards, with the last spine being a large, protruding spike.
- **Eyes:** Not very far apart.
- **Size:** Body width can range from 5-7cm to about 20cm.
- **Territorial:** Males may exhibit territorial behavior, especially in confined spaces like traps.

Habit:

- **Excellent Swimmers:** Their paddle-shaped legs make them powerful swimmers, allowing them to navigate both forwards and backward.
- **Predator:** *Portunus segnis* is an opportunistic predator, feeding on a variety of small animals.
- **Nocturnal Hunter:** They actively hunt for food at night, using a zigzag pattern to locate prey.
- **Burrowing Behavior:** They bury themselves in the sediment during the day for protection and to ambush prey.

- **Molting:** Like other crabs, they molt their exoskeletons periodically, becoming vulnerable during this process.

Habitat:

- **Shallow Coastal Waters:** They are commonly found in shallow coastal areas, including estuaries and seagrass beds.
- **Variety of Substrates:** They inhabit sandy, muddy, and rocky bottoms.
- **Estuarine Environments:** They frequently enter estuaries, which provide food and shelter.
- **Continental Shelf Areas:** They can also be found on the continental shelf, in deeper waters.