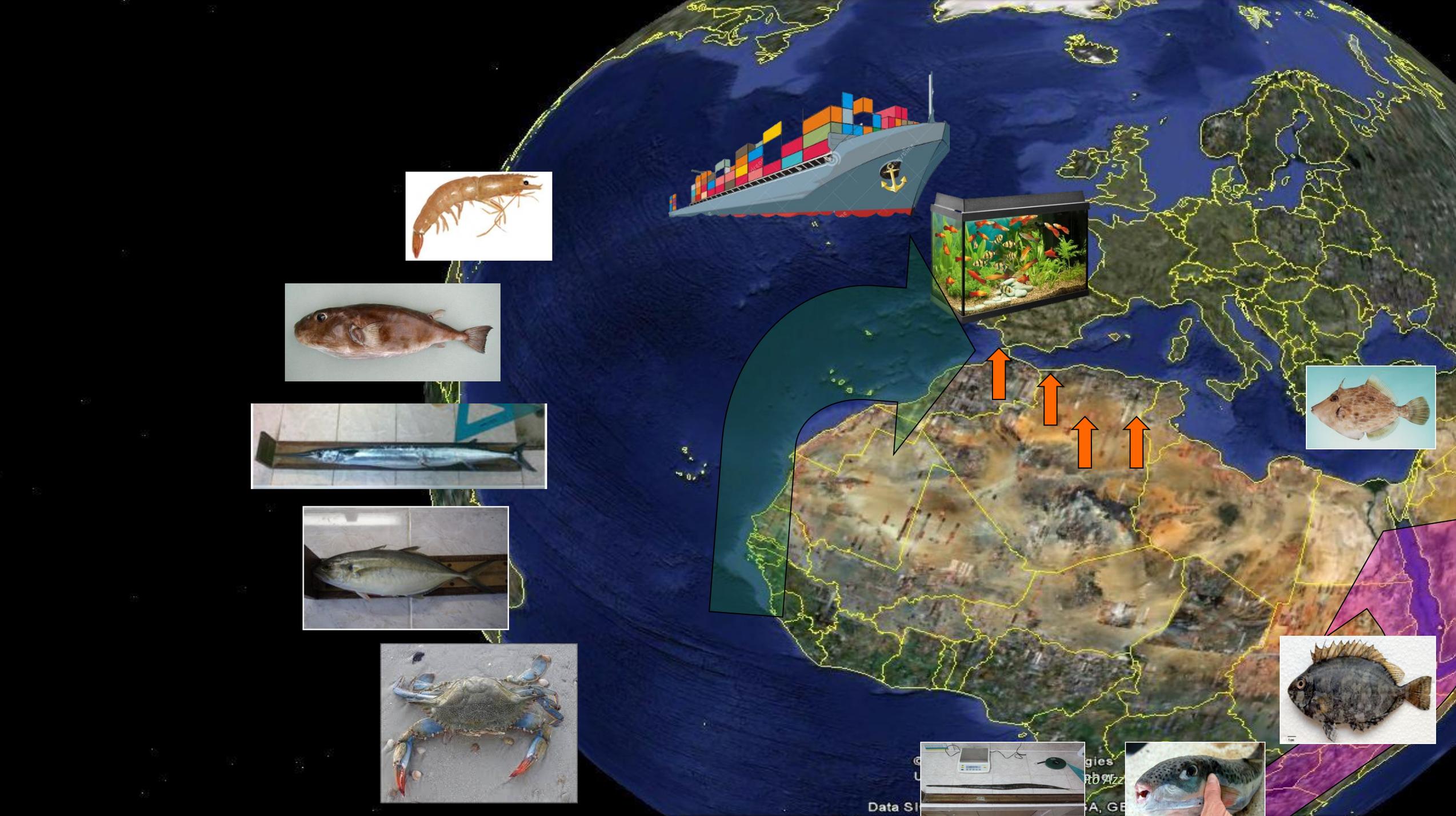




BLUE CRAB (*Callinectes sapidus*) along the Montenegrin coast

26.01.2021. Mr Jovana Tomanic- Scientific researcher



Calinectes sapidus - Blue crab

- Endemic species of the eastern coast of America
- Transferred with ballast water from the Atlantic ocean, and belongs to one of the most invasive species.
- Appeared along the Montenegrin coast few years ago.
- Swimming crab inhabiting estuaries and shallow coastal waters to 90 m depth.
- Generally found over muddy and sandy bottoms and has a wide ecological tolerance - eurythermal/euryhaline species
- Predator of fishes, molluscs, and crustaceans, and is also necrophagous and even cannibalistic. Feeding on algae as well, it can have a strong impact on natural populations of algae

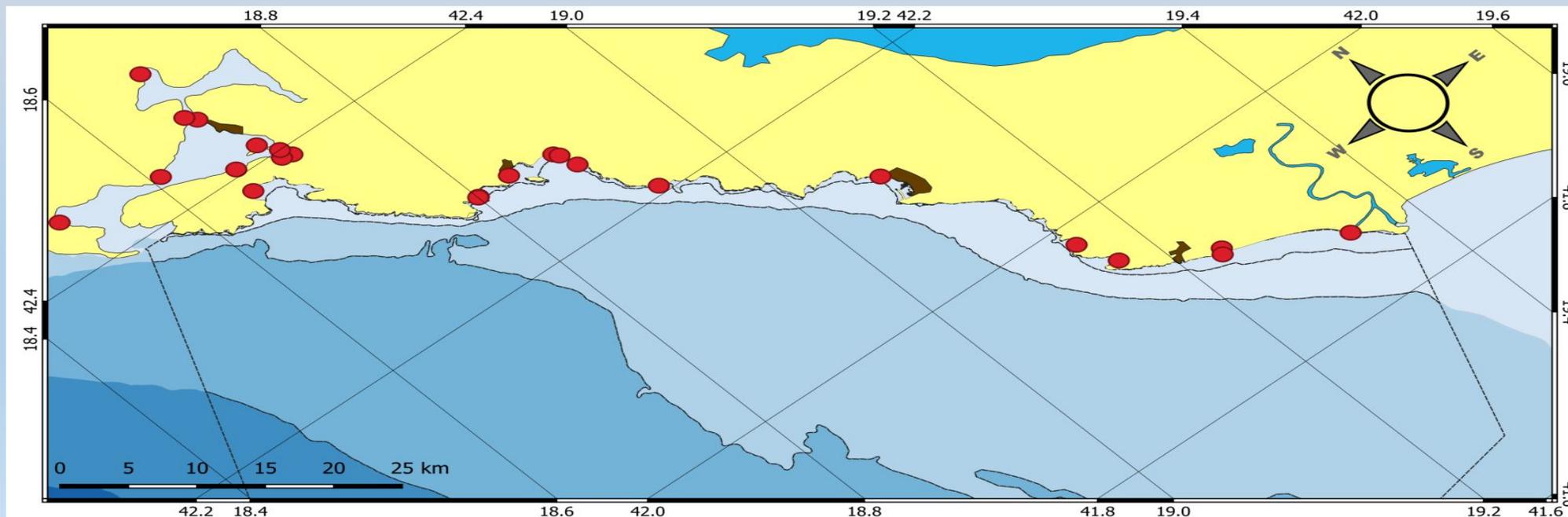


- Characterized by sexual dimorphism in adults, males having blue color on their chelipeds and the females orange or reddish ones
- Adult specimens are excellent swimmers and migrate from seawater to rivers, and vice versa, at different stages of their life cycle
- After mating in estuarine brackish waters females migrate to higher salinity coastal waters to lay eggs.
- It is very adaptive, as evidenced by the fact that a female of blue crab produces up to 8 million eggs which indicating the speed of its spread

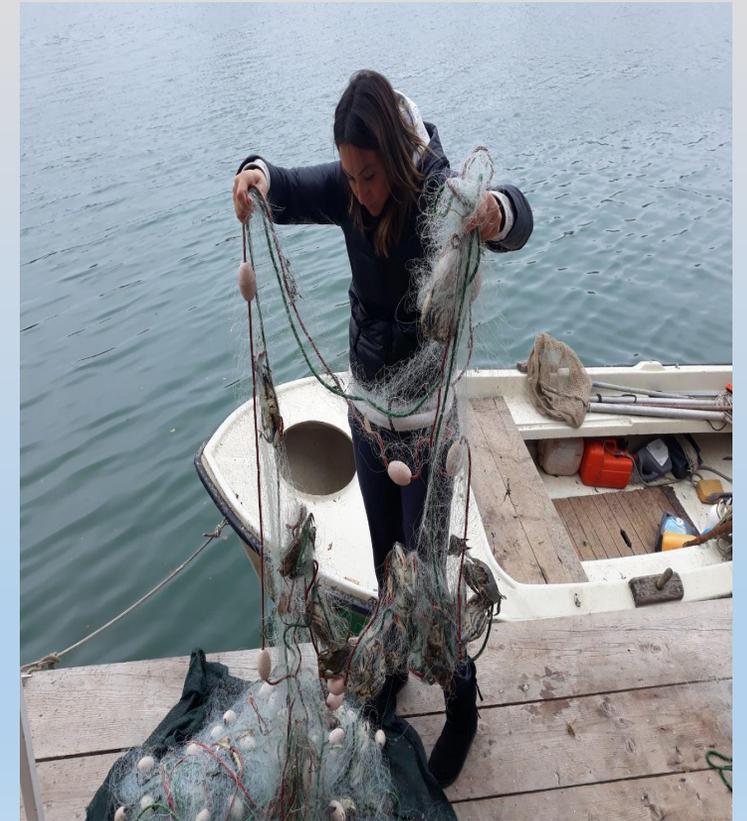


Records of Blue crab in Montenegro

- *C.sapidus* is spotted on several locations in Montenegro, for the first time species was recorded in 2013 in Tivat Bay, after that individuals of blue crab are recorded in the area of port Milena (Ulcinj), Hladna uvala, Oblatno, Jaz, Dobreč, Sutorina and Sopot.
- Blue crab is also observed in the area of high salinity water such as nature reserve Tivatska solila which is habitat to many protected species of amphibians and reptiles.



How to catch it?



- Controlling the introduction and spread of invasive alien species and reducing their impact on significant species and entire ecosystems is today one of the greatest nature protection challenges in Europe.
- The alien species can almost never be removed from the habitats to which it has spread, except on islands and in limited parts of the mainland where it has not yet spread widely.
- *Callinectes sapidus* (Blue crab) is commercially interesting species in other parts of the world, especially in the United States
- Montenegrin fisheries are informed that this species can be used in the human diet, so information of consuming as the opportunity to sell this species and establish a market.
- These species will start to hunting more and therefore the fishing pressure on local populations of autochthonous crabs will be reduced.

Delicacy, an important fishery resource due to the quality mix of rich protein and low fat



Thanks for your attention

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