

Looking for school groups and volunteers to investigate and monitor their coastline for two invasive crabs!

A rare and hopefully exciting opportunity awaits. Any one in a coastal state can join and it only takes one field trip each year.

- Project goal: To monitor two invasive species: European green shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*) and the Asian shore crab (*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*), which have caused the loss of biodiversity and the economic collapse of shellfish industries in their invasive range
- You will be provided with an applied way to teach science that is hands-on and fun.
- You will have a model for engaging students in subsequent inquiry-based science that highlights its applicability to the real world situations.
- Your students will become field researchers, taking part in real research, where they can learn while helping to find answers to environmental and biological problems.
- Your students will learn how to record standardized data and answer scientific questions.
- You and your students will get to spend time on the beautiful coast!

David G. Delaney, Invasion Biologist, is coordinating this project as part of his research for McGill University in Montreal, Canada. His research is focused on invasive species, which is a very important topic in biology and ecological science-- it is the second leading cause of loss in biodiversity. Although movement of animals is natural, people have increased transport and changed the environment so that the rate and extent that invasive species are spreading are alarming. These invasions cause great environmental and economic harm.

These invasive crabs are spreading around the world, and it is important for us to know how fast and where they are moving to next. This concept is called ecological forecasting and it is possible but is quite data intensive. Human actions will be required to prevent new invaders or control and adapt to existing ones.

Contact David Delaney about this **Citizen Scientist Initiative: Marine Invasive Species Citizen Monitoring Organization (CSI MISMO)** by going to www.InvasiveTracers.com.