

Blue swimming crab species
identification and data collection
activity

Target species

Portunus pelagicus

/ Blue swimming crab / Rajungan

a. Male



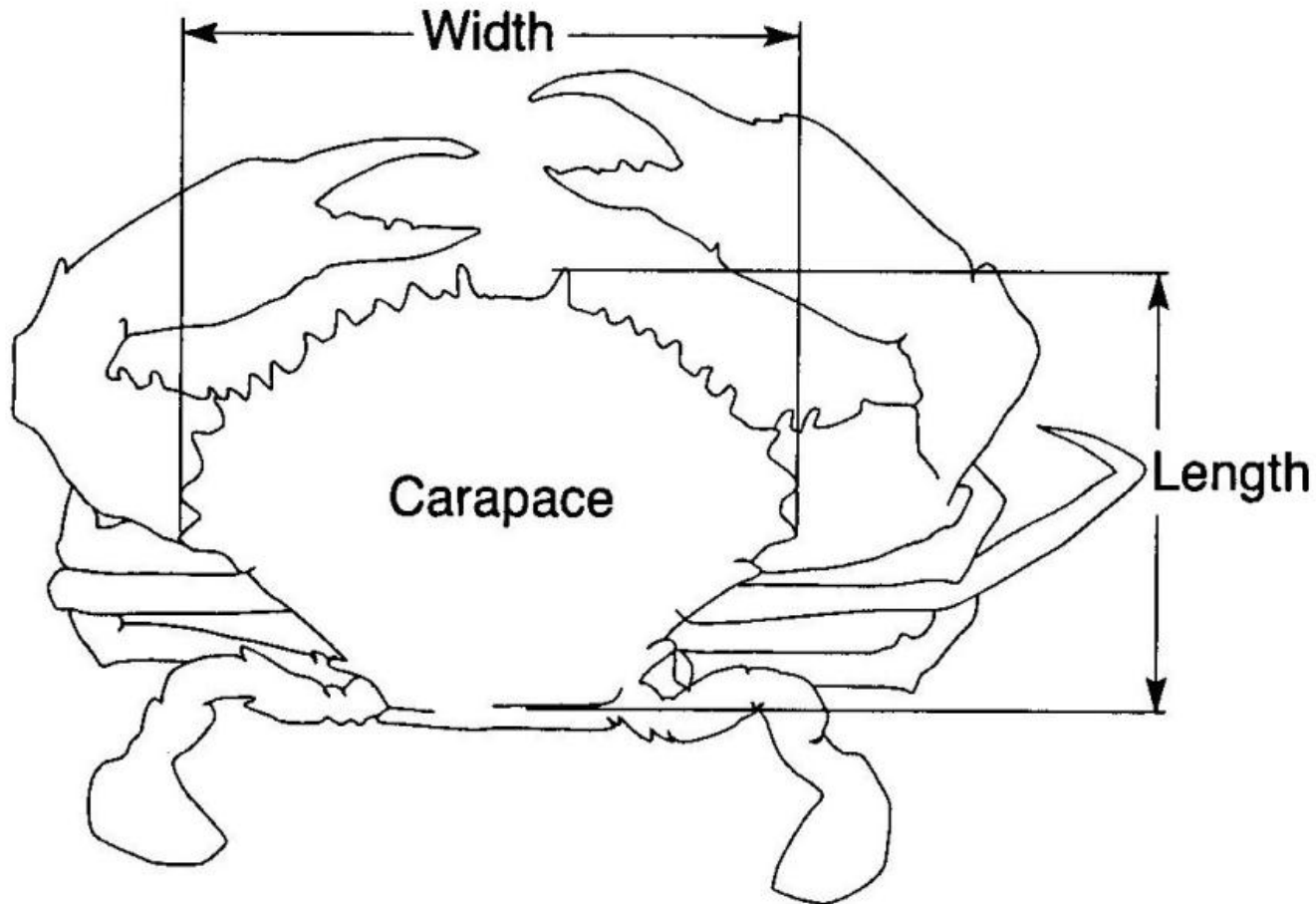
b. Female



Description

- Portunid crab – fourth pair of legs flattened into paddle-like structures, for swimming
- Carapace ~ twice as wide as it is long, rough surface with granulose texture in places
- Max carapace width ~20cm, males of 14cm more common
- Nine ‘teeth’ or spikes along front margin of carapace, last tooth extends further than the others
- Males are larger than females, blue and white/grey whereas females are dull green
- Females abdominal flap is usually larger and more rounded than that of males, changes colour as she matures, from white to pale blue.

Carapace width



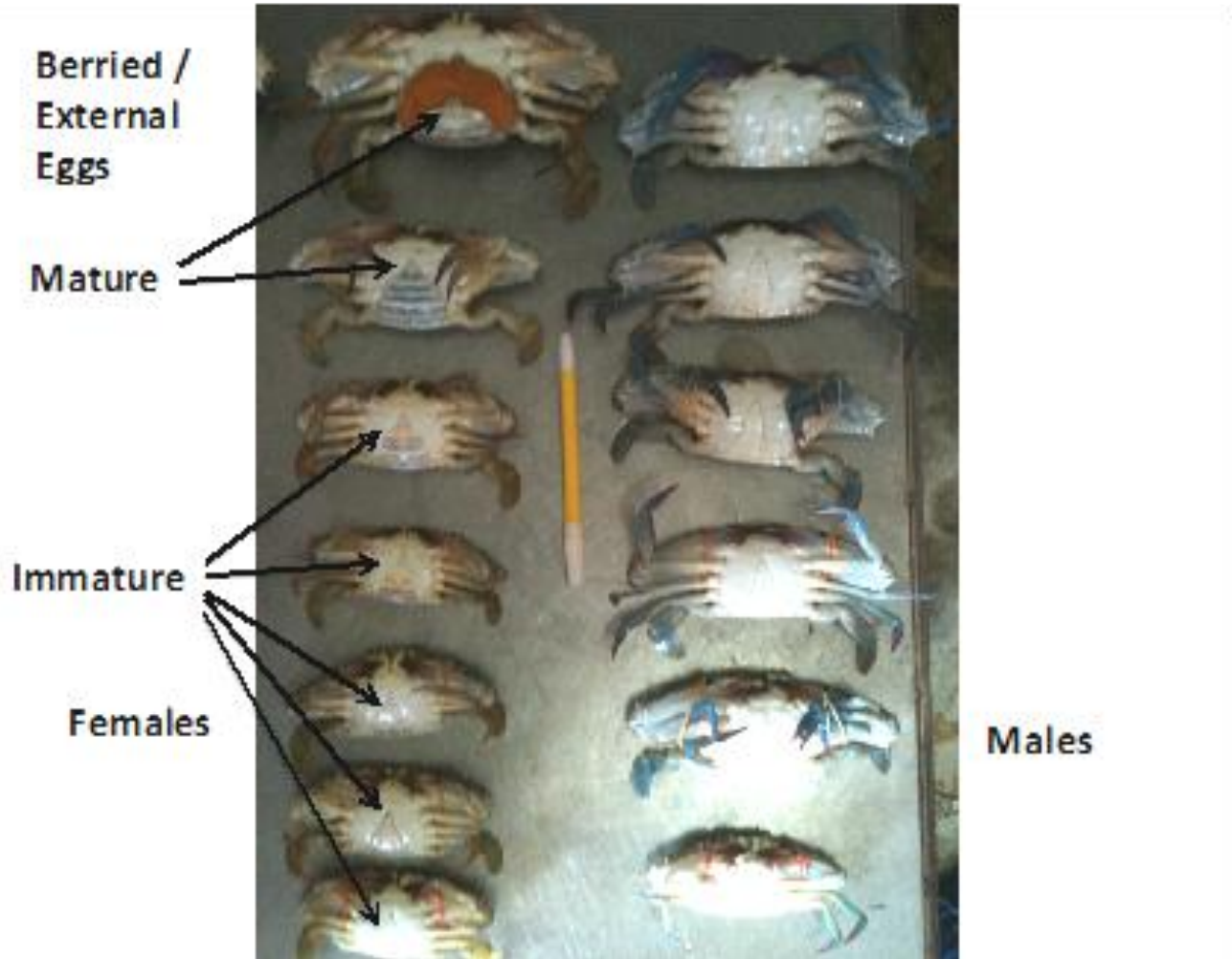
- Measure carapace width to the nearest mm, i.e. 15,5cm recorded as 155mm

Maturity level

Maturity level 3

Maturity level 2

Maturity level 1



Collapsible traps / Bubu

Baiting traps



Bait pieces



Dominant bycatch in traps

Podophthalmus vigil / Long-eyed swimming crab /
Kepiting mata panjang



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- Swimming crab, fourth pair of legs flattened into paddle-like structures, for swimming
- One long tooth on exterior margin of carapace
- Carapace width is greater than carapace length
- Carapace is brown/yellow in colour, claws are red/brown in colour
- Noticeably long eye stalks
- Right claw may be heavier and bigger than the left claw.

Dominant bycatch in traps

Thalamita crenata / Wide-front swimming crab
/ *Kepiting batu*



- Can grow to ~8cm
- Swimming crab
- Carapace smooth, with some low ridges present across middle section
- Usually dark green/olive green colour but may be areas of blue near the claws
- Claws are thicker and shorter than those of blue swimming or long-eyed crab
- Five teeth along front margin of carapace
- Front teeth slightly larger than the last teeth.

Dominant bycatch in traps

Nemipterus species / threadfin bream / Ikan kurisi

- Many *Nemipteridae* species caught in Western and Central Pacific Region
- Threadfin bream family gets its name from the extended thin section of the upper caudal fin, which looks like a thread extending from the top of the tail.
- Length of this 'thread' varies depending between species.
- This family grows to maximum lengths of ~30cm.

Dominant bycatch in traps

Epinephelus sexfasciatus / Sixbar grouper / Kerapu



- Sixbar grouper can grow to lengths of 40cm
- **Only juveniles** caught as bycatch in BSC fishery
- Pale grey/brown with six darker vertical bars along the flanks
- Small, faint dark spots may be present on the body but are usually more prominent on the dorsal, caudal and anal fins, on a dusky grey background
- Pelvic fins are dusky grey and pectoral fins are more orange/red
- Large head, which is sometimes pale red/brown on ventral side and around jaw.

Dominant bycatch in traps

Epinephelus coioides / Orange-spotted grouper
/ Kerapu lumpur



- Goldspotted rockcod can grow to lengths of 120cm
- **Only juveniles** caught as bycatch in BSC fishery
- Broken oblique bars across the body, dark grey/brown, rest of body is pale grey/brown
- Mouth is large, with jaws slanting downwards
- Numerous noticeable gold/orange spots scattered across whole body, become more numerous as fish grows
- Fins are white/grey, with orange spots present on anal, pelvic and anterior section of dorsal fins
- Caudal, pectoral and posterior section of dorsal fin are dark grey
- Anterior section of dorsal fin is spinous, posterior section is rounded
- Caudal, anal and pelvic fins are also rounded.

Dominant bycatch in traps

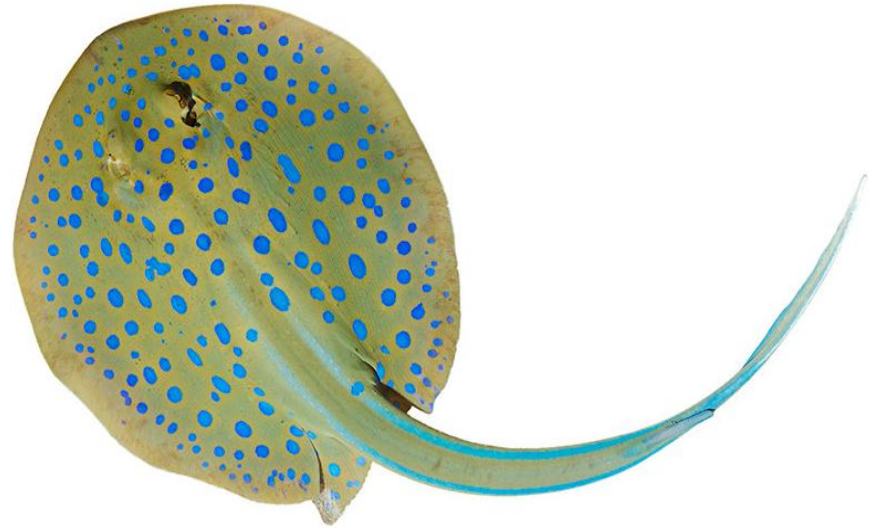
Terapon theraps / Large-scaled therapon / Kerong kerong



- Can grow to 30cm
- Oval, compressed body shape
- Dorsal side light green/brown, ventral side white
- Four horizontal stripes along body, brown, extend along caudal and second dorsal fin
- Noticeable, large black blotch at tip of first dorsal fin and smaller dark blotch at tip of second dorsal fin and tip of upper fork of the caudal fin
- Body and fins have iridescent sheen.

Dominant bycatch in gillnets

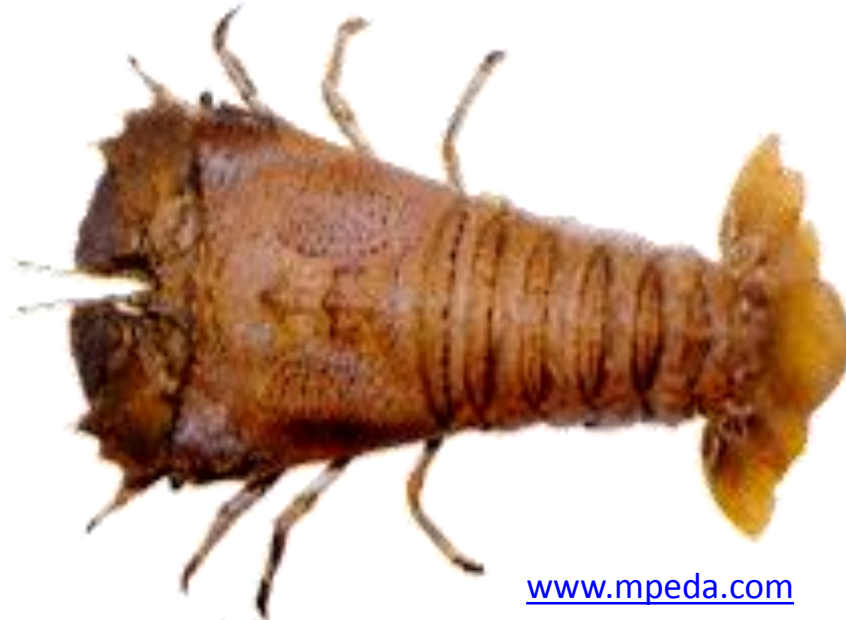
Taeniura lymma / Ribbontail stingray / Ikan pari



- Can grow to 35cm
- Identified by numerous large bright spots on surface of oval elongated disc
- Two bright blue side-stripes along tail
- Dorsal side varies in colour from grey/brown to olive-green or red/brown, ventral side is white
- Two sharp venomous spines at tip of tail
- Snout is rounded, mouth located on ventral side
- Eyes are large and slightly raised above the disc.

Dominant bycatch in traps

Thenus orientalis / Falthead lobster / Udang kipas



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- Anterior section strongly flattened
- Eyes are widely separated, located near the margin of the carapace
- Body is red/brown in colour.

Dominant bycatch in traps

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Dominant bycatch in traps

Caranx species / Trevaillies / Ikan kuwe

- 18 species of *Caranx* family
- Large in size, often with a deep body and have characteristic gill raker, fin ray and dentition
- Majority of the species grow to max length of 50cm
- Giant trevally, *Caranx ignobilis*, growing to max lengths of 1.7m
- Dorsal profile is curved, unlike ventral profile
- Caudal fin is strongly forked
- Majority of *Caranx* species are silver/grey, with shades of blue/green on dorsal side
- Some species have coloured spots on flanks
- Fins vary in colour from hyaline, to yellow, blue or black.

