

KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH RESERVE

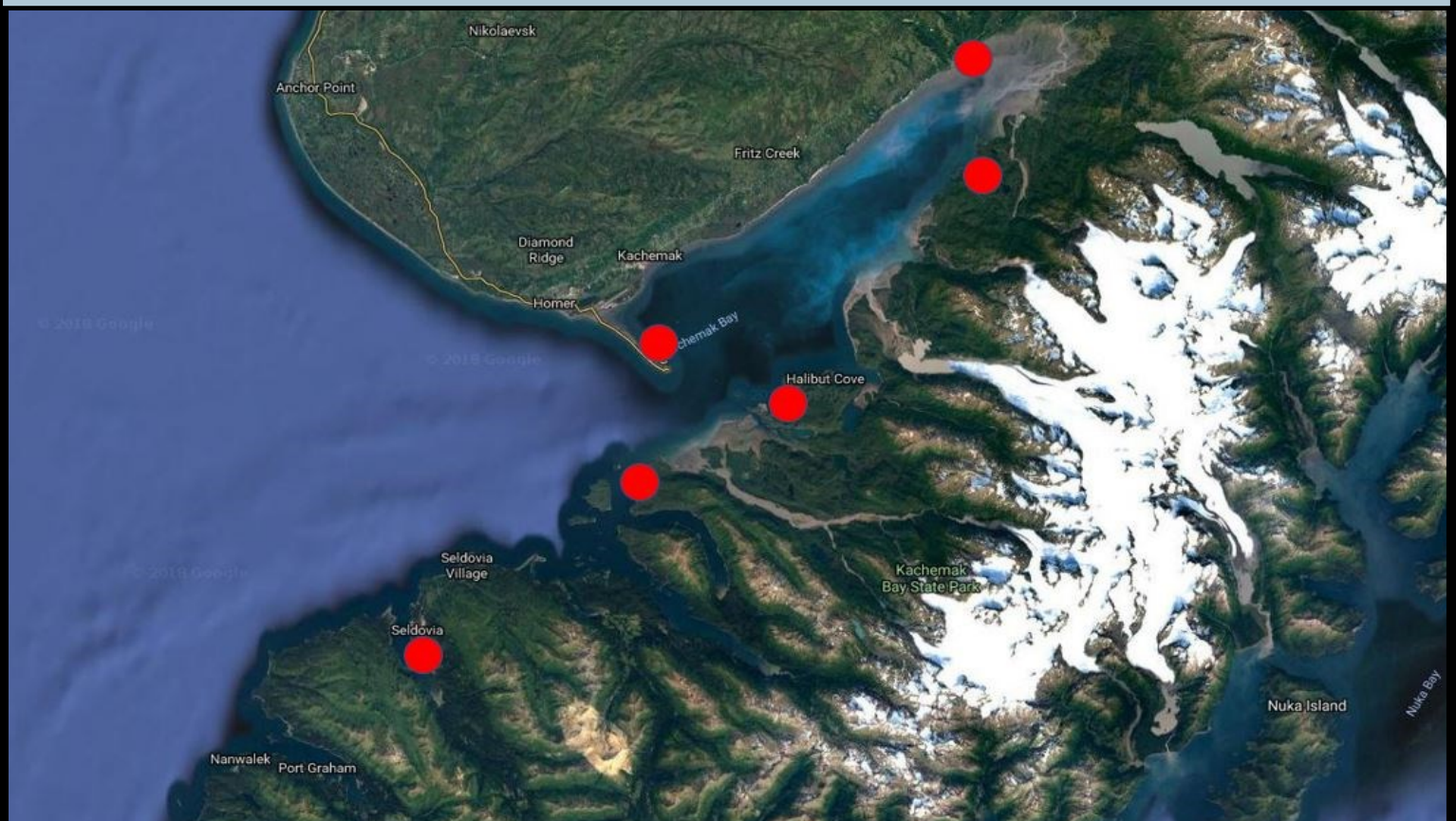
European Green Crab Monitoring

2018 Progress Report

Early Detection European green crab (EGC) monitoring in Kachemak Bay has been underway for 12 years to detect invasive EGC, should they arrive.

This year we had 7 volunteers/groups who conducted a total of 12 trapping events. Thank you so much for your effort and dedication to this project!

No EGC have been found in Alaska. Below is a map featuring current and new trapping sites.



New Partnerships

KBNER is excited to announce a few new partnerships this year. The Reserve expanded to include Kachemak Selo School's Science Program. Staff from our community monitoring program traveled to the school at the head of Kachemak Bay this fall to talk to students about invasive species, potential impacts from EGC in Alaska, local species identification, and data collection. The students then joined us at Pier One Beach for a trapping event and collected bycatch data. We are hoping to expand the program to include a monitoring site this upcoming spring at the head of Kachemak Bay. This upcoming spring we will be traveling to Port Graham to do a EGC trapping event with biology students.



Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

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2018 Bycatch

Local crab species dominated the bycatch this past year with a total of by 189 individuals caught. 65 fish were also caught in traps with the most common being sculpin, pacific cod, and irish lords. Helmet crabs were the most abundant species of crabs in 2018. The ratio of crabs to fish this year were the exact same as they were in 2016, with fish being more prevalent in traps in 2017. The photo to the right shows an exciting catch with a pacific octopus and a rock greenling in Seldovia. We have not seen octopus in our traps since 2015.



The Spread of EGC

While we are monitoring for the early detection of EGC in Alaska, our neighbors in the Pacific Northwest are trapping to remove them. EGC have been spotted in Washington and intensive trapping efforts are now being made to prevent populations from becoming established. There are many lessons that Alaska can learn from Washington for potential response efforts that we may need to make in the future. The efforts being made are through partnerships with community monitors, just like our program. Information on the trapping efforts in Washington can be found at: <https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/>

Interested in Monitoring for EGC?

We are currently looking for monitors at the following locations in Kachemak Bay:

Halibut Cove



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