

# KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH RESERVE

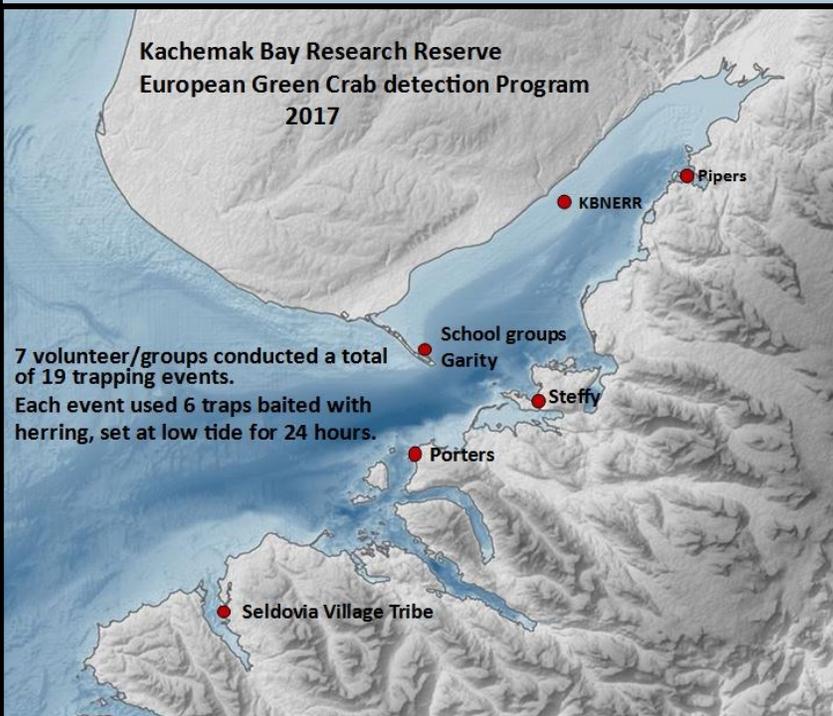
## European Green Crab Monitoring

### 2017 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 19 trapping events. Thank you so much for your effort and dedication to this project!**

No EGC have been found in Alaska to date.



### The Status of Invasive European Green Crab in Washington State

Trapping efforts searching for European Green Crabs came finished up in the end of October in Washington. Over the season a total of 96 green crabs on Dungeness Spit have been caught, through a combined effort of managers and local volunteers. Stakeholder meetings are scheduled for this winter to plan out how to take on these marine invaders. Trapping will begin again next April.

### House Bill 177: Aquatic Invasive Species

House Bill 177 currently sits in the House with the finance committee. The bill discusses response to invasive aquatic species, the development of a response fund, and providing information regarding these invasive species to those traveling on the Alaska marine highway. The bill was inspired by the response efforts to *Didemnum vexillum*, a invasive marine tunicate that has caused many issues within a harbor in Sitka. Originally the bill was introduced by Rep. Paul Seaton from here in Homer.



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#### Bycatch from Trapping for European Green Crabs

While community monitors check their traps for European green crabs, they are also keeping track of bycatch. Our most abundant bycatch was helmet crabs, followed by sculpins, and then greenlings. Our program works with classes from McNeil Canyon Elementary and West Homer Elementary to check crab traps at Pier One Beach. These classes also graph the data that they help collect. On the right is a graph by a student attending McNeil Canyon. It shows the dramatic decline of flat-bottomed seastars spotted around our traps from 2013-2016. Our EGC trapping work not only monitors for the invasives, but also helps to educate students on making scientific observations.

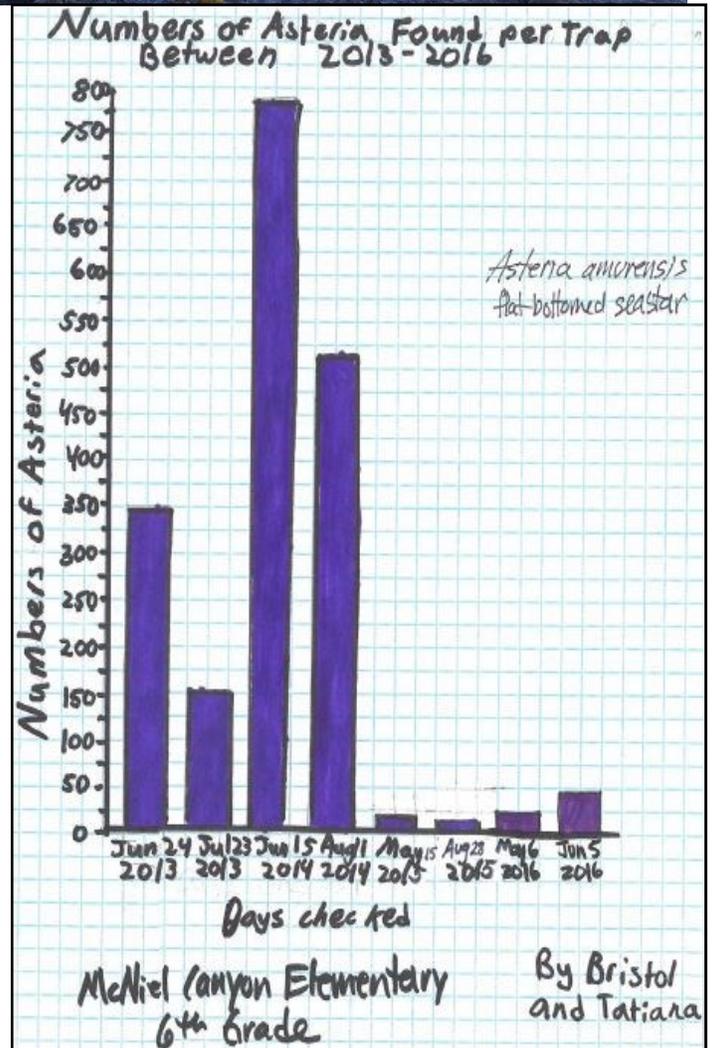
**We are currently recruiting trapping volunteers from these areas:**

**Halibut Cove, Head of Kachemak Bay, N. Side of Kachemak Bay.**

For more information contact Alice Rademacher or Rosie Robinson at 907-235-4797

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Graph created by McNeil Elementary Students on *Asteria* spp. numbers



Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Alaska Center for Conservation Science  
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