



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust



Environment
Agency



Crabbing responsibly is one way to learn about our crustacean companions, but don't forget that crabs are living beings and they must be treated with care and respect.

Follow these basic steps to make sure you look after the crabs that you meet, as well as the rest of the wildlife that uses this area...



- If you're picking a crab up, use your thumb and forefinger to hold the crab by the sides of its shell, with its claws facing away from you.
- Use gentle hands as pulling crabs around or dropping them could crack their shells and hurt their limbs.
- Crabs have gills so need to be in a damp place to breathe. Only put seawater in your bucket and don't keep any crab in it for more than a few minutes because they will quickly use up the oxygen and suffer.
- Keep your bucket in the shade as crabs can overheat in direct sunlight.
- Do not keep more than one crab in your bucket at a time – multiple crabs leads to stress and fighting.
- Return the crabs to the water carefully. Don't throw them back or pour them out from a height because this can damage their shells and legs.
- Crab lines take around 600 years to break down and animals can easily get tangled in them. Take your lines and buckets home with you to use for more crab lining adventures!



Shore crab fact file

Name: Common shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

Size: Its shell (carapace) is broader than long – up to 9cm across.

Description: The shell has five spikes on each side and three rounded lobes between the eyes. Its colour is highly variable from dark green to orange and red. They have eight legs and two large pincers.

Feeding: Shore crabs are scavengers, feeding on seaweed, mussels, worms, and even smaller crabs as well as dead marine animals.



Predators: Shore crabs are eaten mainly by fish and birds.

Distribution: All types of shore around Britain and Ireland.

What next?

We've got plenty of ways to help you discover your wild side and learn more about Yorkshire's amazing wildlife.



Join us as
a member:



Join us as a
shoresearch
volunteer:



Join one of
our marine
events:



ywt.org.uk



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Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity entirely dedicated to conserving, protecting and enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places