Mud Crab population Sampling protocol

Objective

To conduct effective mud crab sampling using standardized methods for accurate measurement, tagging, and release.

Site Selection

Select deployment areas to minimize theft risks and ensure sufficient numbers and size ranges of S. serrata.

Timing of Deployment

Deploy trap during the spring tides period of the month

Set traps as close as practicable to the evening low tide for optimal effectiveness

Trap Deployment

- Randomly deploy 10 to 15 traps at each site in mangrove rivers, maintaining a spacing of approximately 10 to 20 meters
- Address any damages to traps promptly, replacing or repairing as necessary.
- Record GPS coordinates for each trap
- Replenish bait in traps with 500 grams of rotten mackerel at each trap inspections

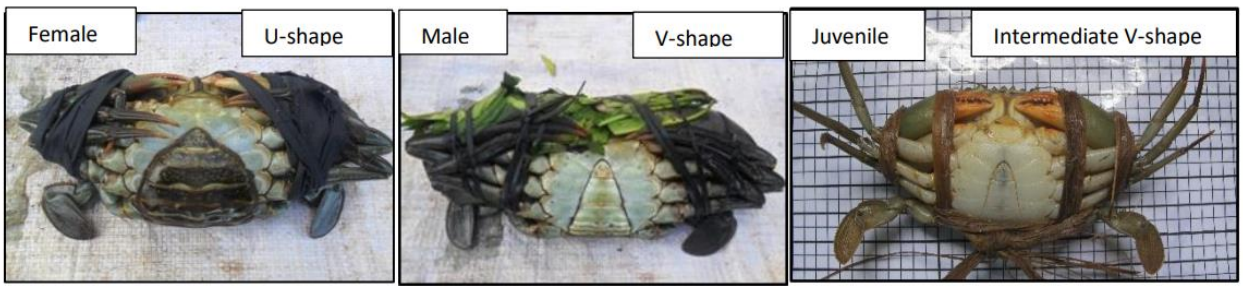
Sampling Frequency

Conduct trap deployment every 12 hours, totalling a minimum of 3 inspections per sampling session.

Trap Inspection and measurement

Measure carapace width using a plastic calliper (precision = 0.01).

Sex crabs through visual observation of the telson:



Quality Control

Ensure consistent and accurate measurement procedures during each inspection session.

Data Recording

Record all measurements and observations in a standardized format on each day of sampling