



# Oyster Predators

Long Island

# Blue Crab

*Callinectes sapidus*

- Up to 9in in shell length (adults)
- Claws are usually blue
  - Sometimes orange and red present
- Feed on oysters and other shellfish
  - Use powerful claws to crush shells



# Mud Crab

- Shell length less than 1in
- Claws can be different colors
- Body is light brown
- Feeds on juvenile oysters and shellfish
  - Crushes shell in claws



# Green Crab

*Carcinus maenas*

- Shell length is 90mm
  - 5 “teeth” on shell on each side next to eyes
- Shell color: green on top, yellow on bottom
- Eats juvenile oysters
  - Claws crush shells



# Japanese Shore Crab

*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*

- Invasive species first seen in 1988
- Shell length: 1.5in
  - Shell is more square shaped compared to other crabs
- Shell color: dark brown, green-black
  - Legs are usually banded
- Eat juvenile oysters
  - Claws can crush shells



# Oyster Drill Snail

*Urosalpinx cinerea*

- Gastropod (snail) with spiraled shell
- Shell length: about 1in
- Have a long drill like radula (tongue-like appendage)
  - Drills into shell and sucks meat out



# Oyster Drill Snail Eggs

*Urosalpinx cinerea*

- Color: yellow
  - Purple when exposed to sun for extended period
- Length: no more than 4cm
- 1 egg sack can have thousands of oyster drill larvae



# Flatworms

*Stylochus ellipticus*

- Small in size – usually less than 1in
- Thin gray-clear body with eyespecks
- Slip under shell of oyster and eats from the inside



# Sea Robin

*Prionotus carolinus*

- Length: less than 1m
- Large fins with 3 spines used as “feelers”
- Color: gray-red-brown
- Feeds on oysters and other shellfish



# Black Fish

*Tautoga onitis*

- “Big lips” with teeth coming outwards
- Length: usually less than 2m
- Color: black-gray
- Feeds on oysters and other shellfish

