

## Project Update December 2018

During the 3 months from October to December 2018, all planned fieldwork was completed. During this period, more than 200 individuals of the blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) were collected and measured along the Montenegrin coast. The biggest abundance of this species is in the area of Ada Bojana and Jaska River, while in other locations the abundance of this species is significantly lower. The most interesting thing is that the most of the females are located at Ada Bojana, while in the Jaska River there are mostly mature males. In the previous results, no pregnant females have yet been recorded but in the interviews with local fishermen they noticed them in the fishing gear. During the monitoring and collecting interviews, there was very nice cooperation with local fishermen. Besides the planned fishing gear (traps) placed by our team, we obtained information about abundance of this species caught in the gillnets from local fishermen, as well as photos of their catches, catch location data and the amount of blue crabs caught. When it was possible, all of these individuals were measured. From Ada Bojana we got the data that, in a single day, in the 150 m of gillnet between 400 and 500 blue crab were caught. Also, during this period, we were satisfied with the feedback from fishermen about the tasting of blue crab. Although it is very aggressive species that has destroyed a large amount of gear, people who tried it said that the species was tasty and that the meat was of good quality. Also, we contacted colleagues from Tunisia to ask them which was the best way to establish a market for this species in Montenegro, as they have established it a few years ago in Tunisia. In the following period, we will continue to cooperate with fishermen, and appeal to overfishing and consumption of this species.

