

CoCoast Marine Invaders Survey Instructions: Sandy and Muddy Shores

This survey is based on 10 minute timed searches for individual non-native species. It is up to you which species, and how many species, you search for during your visit to the coast. Please complete a separate 10 minute search per species.

- 1) Choose the non-native species you would like to search for.
- 2) Print off the species card(s) and recording form(s) to take with you to the shore. Take a pencil, camera and a stopwatch or timer. Most mobile phones have camera and stopwatch facilities.
- 3) Check the tide times in your local area to make sure you are surveying for species when the tide is lowest (going on shore an hour in advance of low tide is best).
- 4) On the shore, read the species card and locate the appropriate area to search. For the crab species, please search under rocks, seaweed or washed up debris. For the slipper limpet and oysters please search the surface of sand/mud and around strand lines and rocks.
- 5) Familiarise yourself with what the species looks like.
- 6) Set a ten minute timer and begin searching for your chosen species.
- 7) **If you think you have found the species on your card - stop the timer.** First ask yourself if it has all of the key features listed on the card. Key identifying features, which distinguish from easily confused species, are in bold. Please take a photo of the species so we can confirm. Refer to species card for what to photograph.
- 8) Fill in the recording sheet whilst the timer is stopped. Please refer to the species card on how to record abundance.
- 9) When you are ready, restart the timer and continue searching.
- 10) **If you do not find the species in the 10 minutes, circle "None" or "0" (zero) in the 'Abundance' box.** Make sure that you have written the name of the species you were looking for on your sheet. If you have decided to search for more than one species, you can now move on to your next species. Please repeat steps 4-10 separately for each new species.
- 11) Upload your data onto www.mba.ac.uk/marineinvaders, with the photographs you have taken.

Remember, looking for a species and not finding it is just as important as finding it!
It is important that we do not contribute to the spread of these non-native species. Please look, record and photograph, but leave as found any species you suspect of being a non-native.