

## Summary of Teesside Crab incident A&R investigation – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Saltburn Site visit

After an initial visit on 8/10/21 to the Teesside Crab mortality incident a follow up visit by two Environment Agency officers was made on 25/10/21 after continued reports of crustacean mortality. Reports of dead crabs had come in from further south than previously at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. On arrival at 10:30 at Saltburn beach EA officers found 100s of dead and still dying crabs and remains of dead lobsters. Again multiple species of crustacean were seen including green shore crab, velvet swimming crab, Edible crab and common lobster. This suggests whatever is causing the mass die off is still active. Chronic pollution, or disease is now the most likely cause, however, results are needed before any conclusions can be made.

Recent storm activity over the weekend (23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Oct) had led to large numbers of the already dead crabs and lobster being washed up, especially at Saltburn. The storm had also washed up a large amount of kelp. Officers saw other marine debris in amongst the kelp but excluding all the dead crustaceans there was nothing out of the ordinary from what you would expect after a storm. Razor clam shells (just shell) were observed and one dead juvenile flat fish. Seagulls were observed feeding on the dead crustaceans. No other dead organisms were seen.

A sample of ~20 dying crabs was taken at Saltburn beach for future analysis. Sea water samples were also taken to be tested for metals, GCMS, LCMS and a general suite. The sea water was tested using a water quality meter which showed normal readings (see appendix).



### Redcar site visit

At 13:00 officers arrived on Redcar at Coatham Rocks to investigate. Again dead/dying crabs were seen. A sea water sample was taken. No other dead marine life was observed. The sea water was tested using a water quality meter which showed normal readings.

### Bran Sands site visit

At 13:45 officers arrived at Bran Sands to investigate. Dead remains of crabs were seen but in lower numbers than on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Very few dying crabs were observed. A sea water sample was taken. No other dead marine life was observed. The sea water was tested using a water quality meter which showed normal readings.

### Seaton Carew site visit

At 15:00 officers arrived at Carr House Sands (north of Seaton Carew) to investigate. Dead & dying crabs were seen. A sea water sample was taken along with a sample of ~20 dying crabs. No other dead marine life was observed. The sea water was tested using a water quality meter which showed normal readings.

### Seaham Harbour visit

At 15:30 officers investigated Seaham Harbour beach, no dead or dying marine life was observed.

### Additional Information

Photos and videos available on request

Water samples were submitted to NLS (EA lab) for analysis for Metals, GCMS & LCMS on 26.10.2021.

### Appendix

Water Quality Meter readings- 25/10/21

Location	Temp (°C)	DO (%)	Cond. (SPC)	Salinity	pH (PSU)	Time
Saltburn	12.2	100.2	46542	30.1	8.0	12:18
Redcar	12.1	102	51956	34.1	8.05	13:00
Bran Sands	12.8	120.4	48760	31.8	8.45	13:45
Seaton Carew/ Carr House Sands	13.3	100.9	48649	31.7	8.11	15:00

Teesside Seawater Sample submission records for NLS – submitted on 26.10.2021

Water Samples	PRN	NGR	Material code	Time
Saltburn by the Sea	90226778	NZ6674921916	2IZZ	12:18
Redcar	90226719	NZ6001625587	2IZZ	13:00
Bran Sands	90226775	NZ5557226783	2HZZ	13:45
Seaton Carew/Carr House Sands	90226720	NZ5201831852	2IZZ	15:00

Crab samples collected on 25/10/2021 and stored in Freezer at Tyneside House

Location	PRN	NGR	Material code	Time
Saltburn by the Sea		NZ6621321946	9CZ1	11:30
Seaton Carew/ Carr House Sands		NZ5184431906	9CZ1	15:15