

# Catch Me If You Can!

**B**lue crabs are a valuable economic species in Biscayne Bay. The blue crab's Latin name translates as "beautiful swimmer that is savory." They are from the Phylum *Arthropoda* (animals with jointed legs). Blue crabs have 10 legs and a large pair of claws, great for pinching its predators and picking up it's food.

Blue crabs can walk very quickly across the ocean floor. The females have been known to swim 500 miles in 100 days! Sideways swimming is unique among crabs. Are there any other animals that you know to swim or walk sideways?

Blue crabs are indeed a tasty treat. They support valuable recreational and commercial fisheries. Blue crabs generate the second largest fishing activity for Biscayne Bay. Their meat is high in protein, vitamins, iodine, and low in calories. Blue crabs are harvested as hard shell crabs, peeler crabs (prior to molting), and soft shell crabs (immediately after they molt).

