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| **Variable** | **Soft-shelled crab** | | **Hard-shelled crab** | | |
| **Condition** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Description** | **New soft** | **New hard** | **Intermediate** | **Old** | **Very old** |
| Appendix 4 photograph, ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 1 | Condition 2 - New Hard two photographs showing ventral sides of a snow crab of carapace condition 2 | **Condition 3 – Intermediate three photographs showing ventral sides of a snow crab of carapace condition 3** | Condition 4 – Old: photograph showing ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 4 | Condition 5 – Very old  photograph showing ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 5 |
| **Time since moult** | Less than 3 months. | 3 to 12 months. | More than a year. | 1-3 years. | 3+ years. |
| **Carapace hardness** | Firm, but relatively soft and flexible. | Carapace is harder and rigid. | The carapace is hard and firm. | The carapace is hard and firm. | Soft and spongy due to decalcification. |
| **Claw hardness** | Soft and breakable with thumb. | Hard and difficult to break with thumb. | Very hard to break. | Very hard to break. | Soft and spongy due to decalcification. |
| **Carapace (dorsal)** | Light reddish - brown. | Light reddish -brown. | Darker reddish -brown. | Dark brown. | Dark brown. |
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| **Carapace (ventral)** | White, translucent & iridescent. | White & opaque, with some iridescence. | Yellow-beige. Iridescence in a very few places. | Yellowish brown, no iridescence. | Dark brown, no iridescence. |
| Appendix 4 photograph, ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 1 | Condition 2 - New Hard two photographs showing ventral sides of a snow crab of carapace condition 2 | **Condition 3 – Intermediate three photographs showing ventral sides of a snow crab of carapace condition 3** | Condition 4 – Old: photograph showing ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 4 | Condition 5 – Very old  photograph showing ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 5 |
| **Epibionts**  **(surface organisms)** | Carapace is very clean with no surface organisms. | Carapace is clean, but may have a few surface organisms. | May have some moss on the carapace. Barnacles and spirorbids may be visible. | Crab is mossy, with barnacles & spirorbids often present. | Heavy moss. May have extensive coverage by barnacles and spirorbids. |
| **Spines & dactyls (leg tips)** | Very pointy and sharp. | Very pointy and sharp. | Still sharp but showing signs of wear. | Worn and rounded. | Rounded and often damaged. |
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| **Scars & wear** | No scars or wear. | Minimal scratches or wear. | Scars visible on the ventral surface. | Obvious scars, scratches and wear. | Scars & widespread wear on the carapace. |
| **Meat yield** | Very low. | Low to medium. | Maximum level. | Maximum level. | Maximum level. |

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| **Shell condition** |  |  |
| 1 - New soft | Appendix 4 photograph, ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 1 |  |
| 2 - New hard | Condition 2 - New Hard two photographs showing ventral sides of a snow crab of carapace condition 2 |  |
| 3 - Intermediate | **Condition 3 – Intermediate three photographs showing ventral sides of a snow crab of carapace condition 3** |  |
| 4 - Old | Condition 4 – Old: photograph showing ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 4 |  |
| 5 - Very old | Condition 5 – Very old  photograph showing ventral side of a snow crab of carapace condition 5 |  |

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| Ventral surface of a shell condition 4 crab showing extensive coverage by bryozoans (moss) over most of the ventral surface and legs. Note the yellowish coloration of the carapace. | | |
| **Epibiont / Epizoites name** |  |  |
| **Barnacles** |  |  |
| **Spirorbids** | |  | | --- | |  | | Dorsal surface of a shell condition 3 crab showing barnacles and spiroids on its shell. | |  |
| **Serpulids** |  |  |
| **Sponges** |  |  |
| **Hydroids** |  |  |
| **Leech eggs** |  |  |
| **Bryozoans** |  |  |
|  |  |  |