

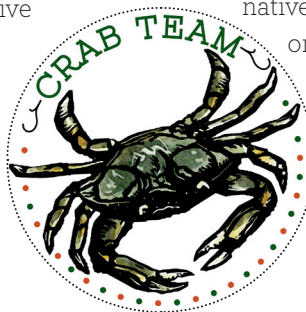
# EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB

## KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE

Washington's diverse and productive salt marshes and pocket estuaries, already threatened by shoreline development and pollution, now face a potentially destructive invader. The European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) is considered one of the world's worst invasive species. It can alter shoreline ecosystems and negatively impact economically important species.

### YOU CAN HELP PROTECT WASHINGTON HABITATS FROM THESE CRABS IN TWO WAYS.

- Look for green crabs next time you stroll the beach.
- If you suspect you have found a live green crab or molt, email photos and detailed location information to [crabteam@uw.edu](mailto:crabteam@uw.edu). You can take a molt with you, but please leave a live crab where you found it, because European green crabs are currently illegal to possess live, and fortunately, most of the suspected sightings are actually native species.



### GET YOUR BOOTS MUDDY AND VOLUNTEER WITH THE CRAB TEAM.

Washington Sea Grant, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and partners have teamed up to lead a volunteer-based early detection and monitoring program for European green crab. The program is also designed to improve our understanding of native saltmarsh and pocket estuary organisms, and how they could be affected by green crabs.

To volunteer, contact [crabteam@uw.edu](mailto:crabteam@uw.edu) to learn how you can participate.

### SUSPECT YOU HAVE FOUND A GREEN CRAB?

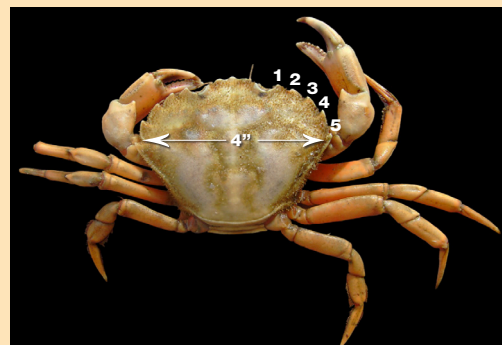
Take photos but leave the crab where you found it. Email photos and detailed location information to [crabteam@uw.edu](mailto:crabteam@uw.edu).



## WSG.WASHINGTON.EDU/CRABTEAM

### HOW TO IDENTIFY EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS

- 5 spines (or marginal teeth) to the outside of each eye
- Up to 4" across the carapace (or back shell)
- Wider at front than back of the carapace
- Although often referred to as "green crab," color is not its distinguishing feature. The actual color can vary from dark mottled green to orange or red.



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## **MORE INFORMATION**

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