

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.

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.

The European green crab is a global invader that can alter any ecosystem it infests 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.
- Get your boots muddy and volunteer with the Crab Team.



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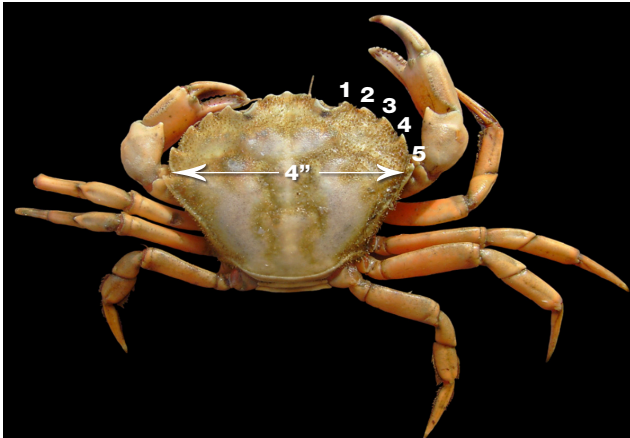
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HOW TO IDENTIFY EUROPEAN GREEN CRABS



- 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.

THE CRAB TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

The best way to protect shoreline habitats from the invasive European green crab is to learn how to recognize them and report sightings.

If you suspect you have found a green crab, email photos and detailed location information to crabteam@uw.edu and leave the crab where you found it.

To learn more go to wsg.washington.edu/crabteam

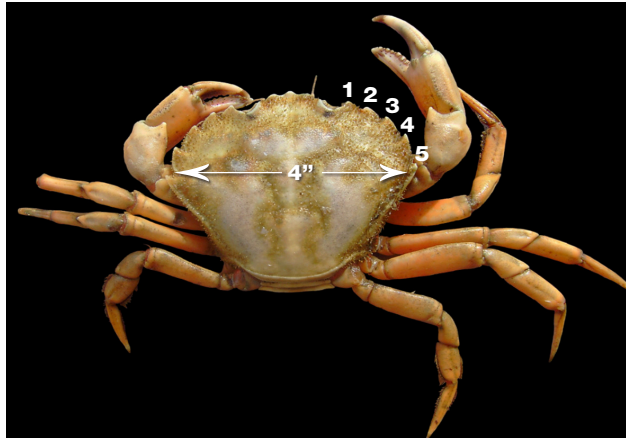
Join the conversation: follow @WAGreenCrab and @WASeaGrant



www.wsg.washington.edu

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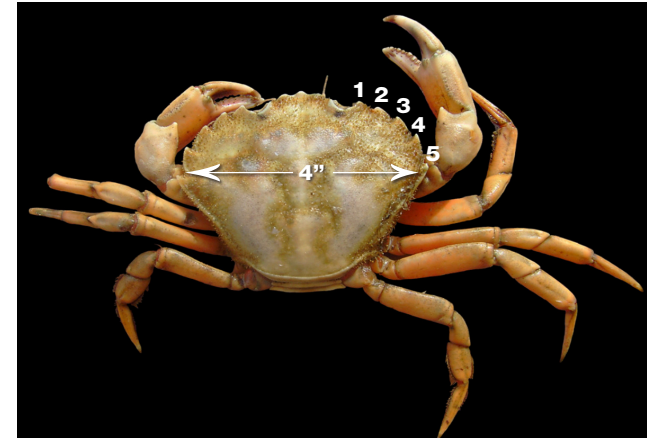
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