

COMMON CRABS NATIVE TO WASHINGTON

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

(Crabs shown not in proportion to each other.)

Dungeness Crab

Metacarcinus magister

Broadly oval shell with 10 spines outside the eyes. Shell widest at the 10th spine. Narrow frontal area with 5 unequal spines. Serrations on upper margin of claws. Light colored claw tips. Color purple to tan. Shell up to 10 inches wide.



Red Rock Crab

Cancer productus

Fan-shaped shell with 10 spines outside the eyes. Frontal area protrudes beyond eyes with 5 spines. Large claws with black tips. Color usually red or red/brown. Shell up to 7.8 inches wide.



Pacific Rock Crab

Romaleon antennarium

Fan-shaped shell and widest at 9th spine outside the eyes. Frontal area between eyes has 5 spines. Large, smooth claws with black tips. Red spots on claws and underside. Hairy legs. Shell up to 7.0 inches wide.



Graceful Crab

Metacarcinus gracilis

Smooth shell and widest at 9th spine outside the eyes. Margins of shell are cream color. No serrations on upper margin of white-tipped claws. Slender purple or reddish walking legs. Shell up to 4.5 inches wide.



Illustrations courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, R. Hibpshman (Helmet crab).



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Purple Shore Crab

Hemigrapsus nudus

Three spines outside the eyes on the rectangular shell. Frontal area slightly rounded without prominent lobes. Smooth hairless legs. Claws with spots. Shell up to 2.2 inches wide.



Kelp Crab

Pugettia producta

Shell surface smooth and longer than width. Three spines outside the eyes and widest at third spine. Prominent forked rostrum protrudes beyond the eyes. Serrated claws and cylindrical walking legs. Shell up to 4.3 inches wide.



Hairy Shore Crab

Hemigrapsus oregonensis

Three spines outside the eyes on the rectangular shell. Two lobes on frontal area. Hairy legs with no spots on the claws. Shell up to 1.9 inches wide.



Helmet Crab

Telmessus cheiragonus

Six unequal spines outside the eyes. Widest at the 4th spine. Frontal area protrudes in front of eyes. Entire body covered with bristly hairs. Short claws. Shell up to 4.0 inches wide.



REPORT THE TWO NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE SPECIES BELOW

Call 1-888-WDFW-AIS or visit wdfw.wa.gov/ais. Live crabs must not be retained, possessed, or transported.

European Green Crab

Carcinus maenas

INVASIVE

Five spines outside the eyes on the shell. Spines curve forward. Three rounded lobes between the eyes. Last pair of legs somewhat flattened. Color can actually vary from green to orange to red. Shell up to 4 inches wide.



Chinese Mitten Crab

Eriocheir sinensis

INVASIVE

Fur-like hair on the claws of the adults. Four spines outside the eyes on the shell. Legs can be more than twice as long as the shell width. Shell up to 3.7 inches wide.

