

Green Crab

Carcinus manenas

Identification Color variable & mottled – green to brown, grey to red; black spots on palm of claws; last pair of legs somewhat flattened with hair.

Why is it a Problem? Increases competition for food and habitat; may have a negative impact on shellfish and crustacean populations; may harm eelgrass transplants.



[paste map here]

Range/Habitat Established in coastal bays and mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

Similar Species Similar to Japanese shore crab (also invasive), but is less boxy and has 4 rather than 3 pairs of walking legs.

Legal Status Prohibited from being removed from the waters of one watershed and introduced into the waters of another watershed. Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

Method of Introduction How did the species get here?

Control and Prevention Do not release live green crabs into the environment. Do not use live green crabs for fishing bait

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.