

# MARINE PEST:

## European green shore crab

*Carcinus maenas*



### Key features

- 5 spines on each side of eyes
- Last pair of legs sharp & slightly flattened at tips - no swimming paddles
- Smooth green/brown shell with pale orange underside
- Shell up to 7 cm wide

### Habitat


- Prefers bays/estuaries but found on all types of shores up to 60 m depth
- Tolerates temperatures up to 30°C

### Impacts

- Aggressive predator, outcompetes natives for food & habitat

### Known locations

- NSW; Vic; Tas; SA

 Likely to establish



### REPORT IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE KNOWN LOCATIONS!

1. Note the exact location
2. If possible, collect a sample and freeze in a plastic bag or take a photo
3. See [www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au) for your state contacts



An Australian Government Initiative

## What it is not

### Native species that look similar to the pest



#### Sand crab *Ovalipes australiensis*

##### Key Features

- Distinctive purple spots towards rear
- Swimming paddles on last set of legs
- Pale grey shell, up to 10 cm wide

##### Habitat

- Burrows into sand
- Intertidal & subtidal to 60 m depth

##### Known Locations

- Qld; NSW; Vic; Tas; SA; WA



#### Paragrapsus species

##### Key Features

- 3 spines on each side of eyes
- First walking legs have felt patch on inner side
- Yellow/brown shell with dark red spots
- Shell up to 4.5 cm wide

##### Habitat

- Under stones & burrows in mud
- Intertidal to shallow subtidal
- Estuaries & sheltered coasts

##### Known Locations

- South of Narooma, NSW; Vic; Tas; SA



#### Rough rock crab *Nectocarcinus integrifrons*

##### Key Features

- Shell covered in fine hairs
- Pincers/fingers of claws black
- Last pair of legs not swimming paddles
- Shell up to 8 cm wide

##### Habitat

- Rocky bottoms, sandy/muddy shores, sheltered seagrass beds
- Intertidal to 15 m depth

##### Known Locations

- Fremantle, WA to Port Stephens, NSW; around Tas

## What you can do

- Inspect & clean niche areas & antifoul your vessel regularly
- Clean & dry equipment before transporting & using in a different location

## Learn more

Read the national biofouling management guidelines for your sector.

[www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au)

#### Photograph credits

This side: Michael Marmach, Museum Victoria (top & centre); Graham Edgar, University of Tasmania (bottom)

Reverse side: P. Gibson NSW Dept. Primary Industries (top). CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research (bottom)

This collaborative effort is supported by the Australian Government, state and territory governments, marine industries, researchers and conservation groups.

Last revised August 2008