

Where is the crab found in South Australia?

This species is highly adaptable, and can tolerate a wide range of conditions.

Habitat

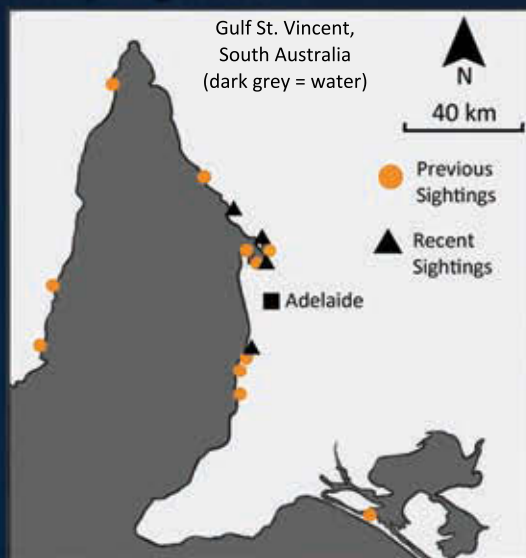
- Soft-sediments (e.g. mudflats and sandflats)
- Mangroves, seagrass and rocky reefs
- Shallow subtidal (up to 60 m depth), estuaries and sheltered bays

Australian distribution

Port Phillip Bay (VIC), Port Jackson (NSW), Tasmania, Gulf St. Vincent (SA) and sightings reported in Fremantle (WA)

South Australian distribution

The Port River and mangroves north of Adelaide (e.g. Port Gawler and Middle Beach) and down south at Aldinga Reef. Also sighted at Marino, Hallett Cove, Port Noarlunga and the Onkaparinga River.



What to do if you see a European shore crab?

Report any suspected new sightings on the Reef Watch - Feral or in Peril website: <http://feralperil.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/feralperil/fieldguide/taxa.htm?groupid=228>

If possible, take a photo for identification (high quality is appreciated).

DO NOT collect live samples, especially if it is unsafe to do so, or from protected areas such as national parks, marine parks or aquatic reserves (including rocky shores).

Please try to note the exact geographical location as accurately as possible, and also details on location of the animal in the marine habitat (e.g. water depth, substrate type etc.). Also note the date, time, number of individuals seen, and if possible, the colour of the carapace surface and underside, sex, and whether eggs were present on females (sometimes referred to as gravid or "berried" females).

For more information, please search '*Carcinus maenas*' on www.marinepests.gov.au/nimpis

Brochure design and illustrations by René Campbell



HOW TO IDENTIFY THE EUROPEAN SHORE CRAB (*Carcinus maenas*)



What is *Carcinus maenas*?

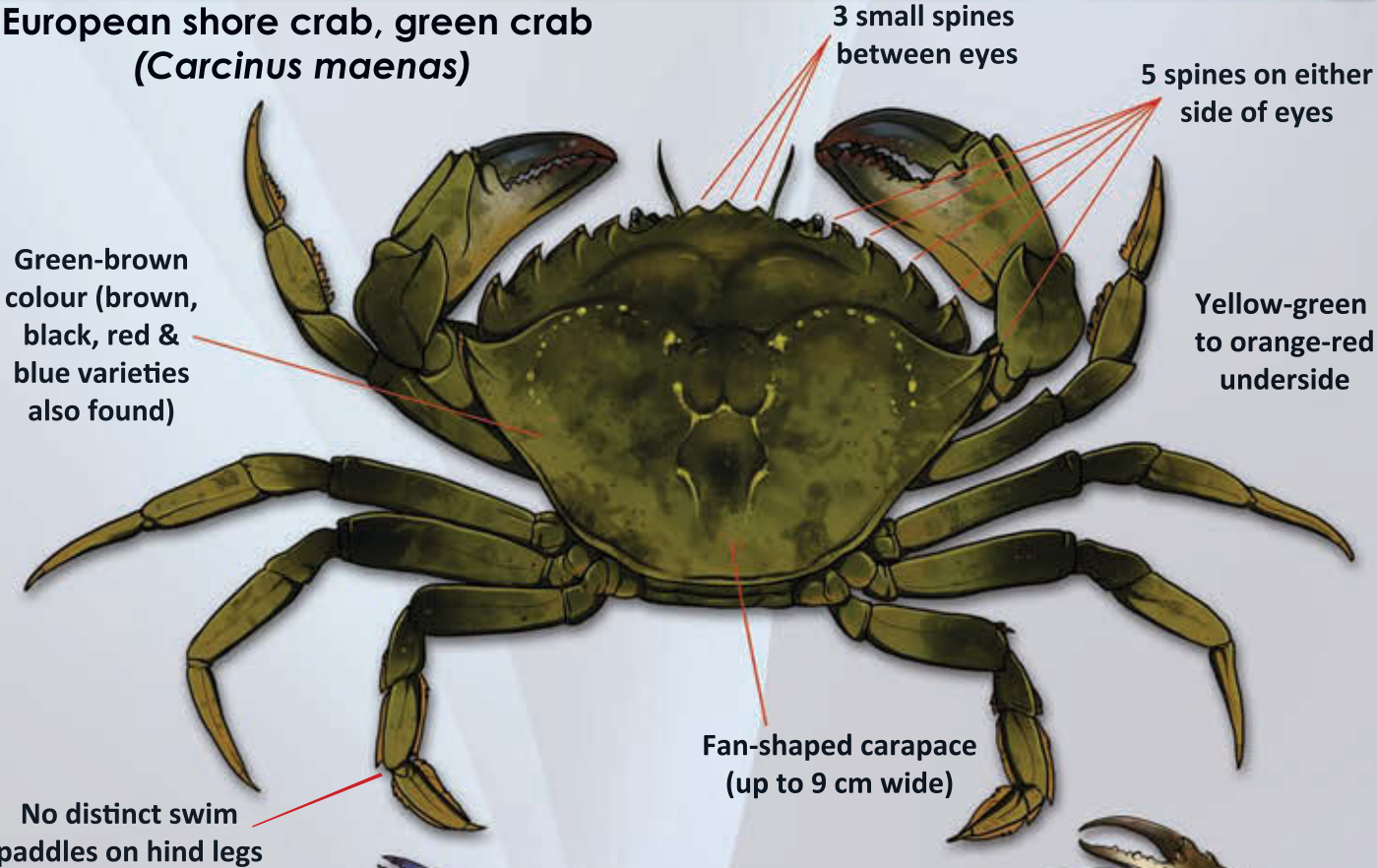
The European shore crab (or green crab) is an introduced pest in Australian waters. Adults of this species are predatory, and consume shellfish, marine worms and other crabs. This crab has invaded coasts all over the world and may be a potential threat to SA's shellfish industry.

How to distinguish the European shore crab from other crab species found in South Australia?

I

Green circles + 'N' = native species
Red circles + 'I' = invasive species

European shore crab, green crab
(*Carcinus maenas*)



N



- 1 small spine on either side of eyes
- No spines between eyes
- Square-shaped carapace (2.5 cm)
- No swim paddles
- Large, round claws

Haswell's shore crab
(*Helograpsus haswellianus*)

Sand crab, surf crab
(*Ovalipes australiensis*)

- 5 spines on either side of eyes
- 4 spines between eyes
- Swim paddles on hind legs
- Fan-shaped carapace (10 cm)
- Two red spots on carapace



N

N



- 4 spines on either side of eyes
- No spines between eyes
- No swim paddles
- Oval-shaped carapace (8 cm)
- One larger claw
- Claws with black tips

Black-fingered crab
(*Ozium truncatus*)

Blue swimmer crab, manna crab
(*Portunus armatus*)



- 9 spines on either side of eyes
- 6 spines between eyes
- Swim paddles on hind legs
- Blue-purple to brown
- Diamond-shaped carapace (22 cm)
- Long, narrow claws

Asian paddle crab, lady crab
(*Charybdis japonica*)



- 6 spines on either side of eyes
- 8 spines between eyes
- Swim paddles on hind legs
- Many colour variants
- Triangle-shaped carapace (12 cm)
- 5 spines on each claw

I

Rough-rock crab
(*Neciocarcinus integrifrons*)

- 4 spines on either side of eyes
- No spines between eyes
- No swim paddles
- Circle-shaped carapace (8 cm)
- Distinct colour separation on carapace between cream and brown



N