



# CRAB TEAM ID GUIDE



Species most likely to be encountered:

**M** As molts

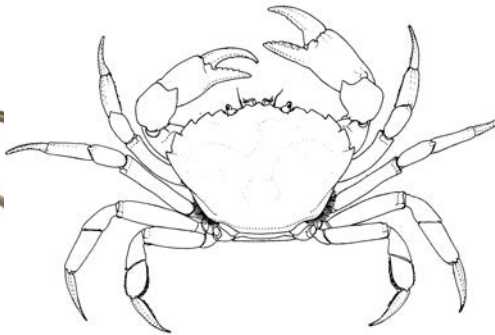
**C** In coastal estuaries

**I** At inland sites

## EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB - CAMA

*Carcinus maenas*

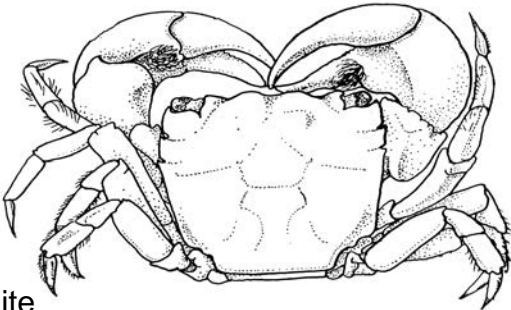
- Carapace: oval to 90mm; 5 prominent marginal teeth, 3 rostral bumps
- Claws: not rounded, occasionally with blue tips
- Walking legs: last pair slightly flattened
- Color: green, brown, or reddish, often with orange joints



## HAIRY SHORE CRAB – HEOR

*Hemigrapsus oregonensis*

- Carapace: square to 50mm; 3 forward-pointing marginal teeth, 2 rostral bumps
- Claws: rounded, often w/ fleshy tufts, no large polka dots
- Walking legs: with fine sparse hairs
- Color: variable, green, brown, yellow, white

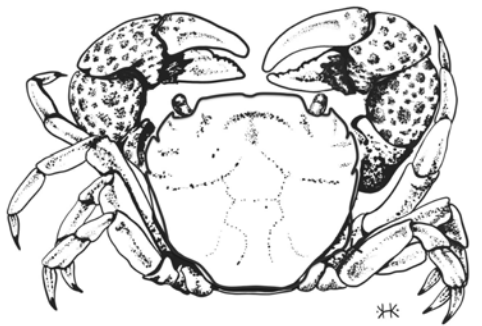


© Greg Jensen

## PURPLE SHORE CRAB – HENU

*Hemigrapsus nudus*

- Carapace: as HEOR above, but to 60mm, marginal teeth rounded inward, 2 rostral bumps less pronounced than HEOR
- Claws: as HEOR, but often with polka dots
- Walking legs: no hairs
- Color: variable, purple, red, yellow, green



© Greg Jensen

## LINED SHORE CRAB – PACR

*Pachygrapsus crassipes*

- Carapace: square to 48mm, with only 2 marginal teeth, 2 reduced rostral bumps
- Claws: as HENU, without polka dots
- Walking legs: mostly bare but coarse spine-like hairs on tips of legs
- Color: dark red-purple with green lines



© Dave Cowles



© Kelly Martin

IF YOUR ORGANISM IS NOT IN THIS GUIDE, CHECK THE VOLUNTEER TOOLBOX AT:

[WSG.WASHINGTON.EDU/CRABTEAM](http://WSG.WASHINGTON.EDU/CRABTEAM) FOR THE SPECIES CODE

# CANCRID CRABS

Species most likely to be encountered:

**M** As molts

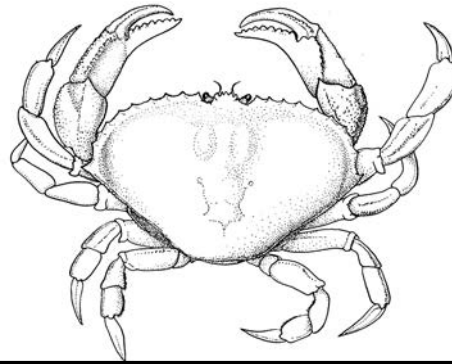
**C** In coastal estuaries

**I** At inland sites

## DUNGENESS CRAB – MEMA

### *Cancer (Metacarcinus) magister*

- Carapace: oval to 230mm; 10 marginal teeth and widest at pronounced 10<sup>th</sup> tooth
- Claws: serrations on upper edge of dactyl
- Walking legs: long light-colored with hairs
- Color: light reddish-brown to purple

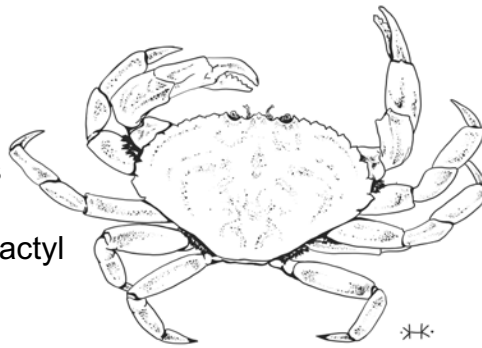


© Greg Jensen

## GRACEFUL CRAB – MEGR

### *Cancer (Metacarcinus) gracilis*

- Carapace: as MEMA but to 115mm and widest at 9<sup>th</sup> tooth. 10<sup>th</sup> tooth appears as a notch behind widest point.
- Claws: no serrations on upper edge of dactyl
- Walking legs: long purplish hairless
- Color: light reddish-brown to purple

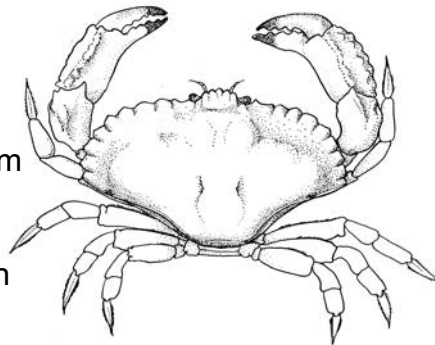


© Greg Jensen

## RED ROCK CRAB – CAPR

### *Cancer productus*

- Carapace: fan to 200mm; 10 rounded, blunt marginal teeth, 5 bumps on protruding rostrum
- Claws: large, muscular, with black tips
- Walking legs: small and thin
- Color: bright red to brown; variable patterns in juveniles including stripes and blotches



## PACIFIC ROCK CRAB – ROAN

### *Cancer (Romaleon) antennarius*

- Carapace: fan to 178mm; 10 curved marginal teeth more pointed than CAPR
- Claws: large, muscular, with black tips
- Walking legs: hairy, similar length as CAPR
- Color: reddish brown to brown; red spots on underside are diagnostic



© Greg Jensen



© Greg Jensen

## PYGMY ROCK CRAB – GLOR

### *Cancer (Glebocarcinus) oregonensis*

- Carapace: circular to 53mm; 10 distinct but petite marginal teeth, widest at 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>
- Claws: very large and rounded with black tips
- Walking legs: hairy
- Color: brownish red



**M**

# LESS COMMON CRABS

Species most likely to be encountered:

**M** As molts

**C** In coastal estuaries

**I** At inland sites

## HAIRY HELMET CRAB – TECH

*Telmessus cheiragonus*

- Carapace: diamond to 100mm; 6 prominent marginal teeth widest at the 5<sup>th</sup>; hairy
- Claws: small, similar to walking legs; hairy
- Walking legs: long and hairy
- Color: olive green to yellow; orange-brown hairs



## SPIDER CRABS – SPID

Multiple species of the family Majidae:

(e.g., *Pugettia producta*, *P. gracilis*, *Scyra acutifrons*)

- Carapace: longer front-back than wide with rostrum protruding far beyond eyes
- Claws: long and thin
- Walking legs: long with sharp tips
- Color: variable, dark green to reddish brown; “kelp colored”



## HAIRY HERMIT CRAB – PAHI

*Pagurus hirsutiusculus*

- Often in very small shells, and may abandon shell when disturbed
- White bands on walking legs; most consistent on 2<sup>nd</sup> to last segment
- Banded antennae
- Typically hairs cover legs



## GRAINY HERMIT CRAB – PAGR

*Pagurus granosimanus*

- Often inhabits very large shells and can retract fully, but will not abandon shell when disturbed
- White to blue tubercules on claws and legs, giving a “grainy” appearance
- Orange, unbanded antennae



## BLACK-CLAWED CRAB – LOBE

**M**

*Lophopanopeus bellus*

- Carapace to 40mm; pentagonal with 3 indistinct marginal teeth
- Large, black-tipped claws
- Hairs on walking legs
- Greyish-purple with white and brown



## PEA CRAB – PEAS

**M**

Multiple species of the family Pinnotheridae

- Carapace to 11mm; oblong oval; smooth with no marginal teeth; no rostrum
- Claws small and indistinct
- Color variable, generally pale

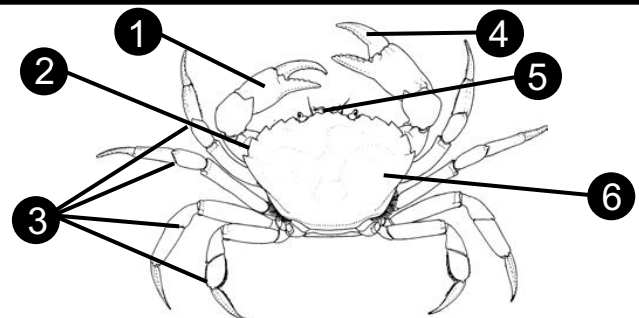


## PORCELAIN CRAB – PORC

**M**

Multiple species of the family Porcellanidae

- Carapace to 19mm; circular; no marginal teeth
- Dorso-ventrally flattened
- 3 pairs of walking legs
- Flattened claws
- Long antennae



1. Claw/Cheliped

2. Marginal teeth/lateral spines

3. Walking legs

4. Dactyl

5. Rostrum

6. Carapace

## ASIAN MUD SNAIL – BAAT

*Batillaria attramentaria*

**I**

- Long conical shell to 45mm, but most individuals 20-30mm
- Circular aperture and operculum
- Color dark brown with fine bands, wider bands sometimes also apparent.
- Where present, often found in very high densities



© Linda Schroeder

## BROKENBACK SHRIMPS – BROK

Multiple species of the families Pandalidae and Hippolytidae

- Laterally compressed
- Prominent rostrum
- “broken” back
- Small indistinct claws
- Long walking legs
- Color variable



© Greg Jensen

## NASSA SNAIL – NASS

*Nassarius mendicus, N. fraterculus*

- Shell oval, football-shaped to 25mm with oval operculum.
- Vertical ribs on shell, and whorls more distinct than BAAT.
- Color variable, light tan, gray, sometimes banded
- Long siphon often extended when crawling



© Linda Schroeder

## SAND SHRIMPS – SAND

Multiple species of the family Crangonidae

- Dorso-ventrally compressed
- Indistinct rostrum
- Flattened back
- Small subchelate claws
- Short walking legs
- Color “sandy”



© Greg Jensen

## BUBBLE SHELLS – BUBB

Multiple species of genus *Haminoea*

- Slug-like body up to 33mm with clear thin shell nearly covered by body
- May contract to a ball when handled
- Color ranges from beige to olive green to black, with fine spots



© Linda Schroeder

## BURROWING SHRIMPS – BURR

Multiple species of infraorder Thalassinidea

**M**

- Dorso-ventrally compressed
- Large abdomen with broad tail fan
- Hairy walking legs
- Color pale white, pink, or gray



© Dave Cowles

## ATLANTIC DOGWHELK – TROB

*Tritia obsoleta*

**C**

- Football-shaped shell to 30mm
- Rounded spire and oval operculum and aperture
- Shell black and finely beaded when young, but appears gray and smooth when worn/aged



© Linda Schroeder

## ASIAN SHRIMP – PAMA

*Palaemon macrodactylus*

- Laterally compressed as BROK
- Very long thin claws, long walking legs
- Prominent rostrum
- 2<sup>nd</sup> antennae longer than body
- Color translucent or pale brown/gray



# MOST COMMON FISHES

Species most likely to be encountered:

**M** As molts

**C** In coastal estuaries

**I** At inland sites

## STAGHORN SCULPIN – LEAR

*Leptocottus armatus*

- Flattened body; large rounded head
- Large, forked antler-like spines in front of gill covers, may erect when agitated
- Large lobe-shaped pectoral fins with concentric black stripes
- Up to 460mm (~18")



© Greg Jensen

## PRICKLY SCULPIN – COAS

*Cottus asper*

- Similar large, rounded head and flattened body as LEAR
- Short unbranched spines on gill covers
- Circular pectoral fins with sturdy, stippled rays. Often holds dorsal fin erect
- Up to 300mm (~12")



© Alex Stote

## TIDEPool SCULPIN – OLMA

*Oligocottus maculosus*

- Head more pointed than LEAR, long slender body
- Two white saddle patches (behind gill and in front of tail) typically apparent
- Pectoral fins weaker, triangular compared to LEAR
- Small forked spine on gill cover
- Up to 90mm (~3.5")



© Greg Jensen

## SHINER PERCH – CYAG

*Cymatogaster aggregata*

- Deep-bodied, narrow football shape, similar to a goldfish
- Color silver and greenish-black sides with 3 broad yellow vertical bars
- Up to 203mm (~8")



© Greg Jensen

## THREE-SPINED STICKLEBACK – GAAC

*Gasterosteus aculeatus*

- Elongate, cigar-shaped body
- Three spines on front of dorsal fin, may be erected if agitated
- Pair of spines in pelvic fins
- Color greenish silver, may be reddish orange
- Up to 75mm (~3')



© NOAA

## EEL-LIKE FISHES – ELFS

Multiple species of Pholidae and Stichaeidae

- Very elongated body, appearing like an eel
- Pectoral fins smaller than sculpin, larger than CYAG or GAAC, caudal fin may appear continuous with body
- Colors variable by species with varied spotting and banding patterns
- Up to 200 - 300mm (~8 - 12') depending on species



© Greg Jensen



# CRABDOMEN GUIDE

Individual abdomens can vary in shape and color, but this guide covers the typical shape associated with each sex.

## SHORE CRABS

♀ Female



♂ Male



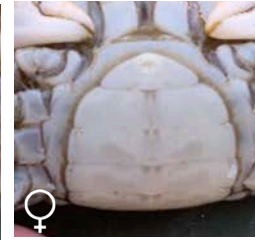
**PURPLE SHORE CRAB - HENU** (*Hemigrapsus nudus*)  
**HAIRY SHORE CRAB - HEOR** (*Hemigrapsus oregonensis*)

### JUVENILE FEMALE VS. FEMINIZED MALE



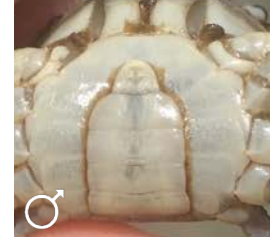
♀

Immature **female**



♀

Prepuberty **female**



♂

Feminized **male**

Record these crabs by their *true* sex

## OTHER CRABS

♀ Female

**EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB - CAMA**  
*Carcinus maenas*



♂ Male



♀ Female

**RED ROCK CRAB - CAPR**  
*Cancer productus*



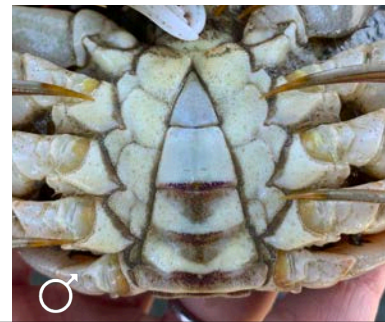
♂ Male



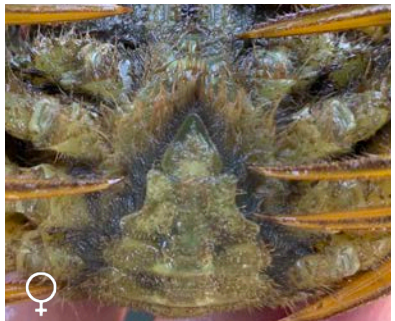
**DUNGENESS CRAB - MEMA**  
*Cancer (Metacarcinus) magister*



**GRACEFUL CRAB - MEGR**  
*Cancer (Metacarcinus) gracilis*



**HAIRY HELMET CRAB - TECH**  
*Telmessus cheiragonus*



**SPIDER CRABS - SPID**

Multiple species grouped from the family Majidae



©Katie Dobkowski

©Katie Dobkowski