



Aquatic biosecurity pest alert

ASIAN PADDLE CRAB

LOOK for this crab

The Asian paddle crab (*Charybdis japonica*) is an aggressive non-native crab that could spread devastating disease to prawns, crabs and lobsters. It could out-compete native crabs like our iconic blue swimmer. The paddle crab has not established any significant populations in Australia, but has potential to do so and become a major pest, so it is important to immediately report any found in the wild. Since its detection in New Zealand in 2000 the species has spread to nearby estuaries and has been eating bivalve shellfish and smaller crustaceans, prompting fears its presence may be impacting on the local ecosystem.

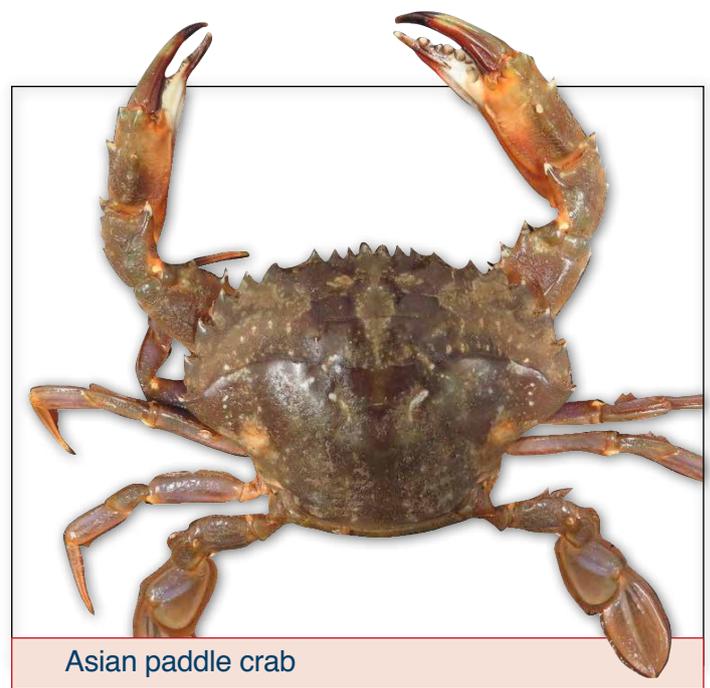
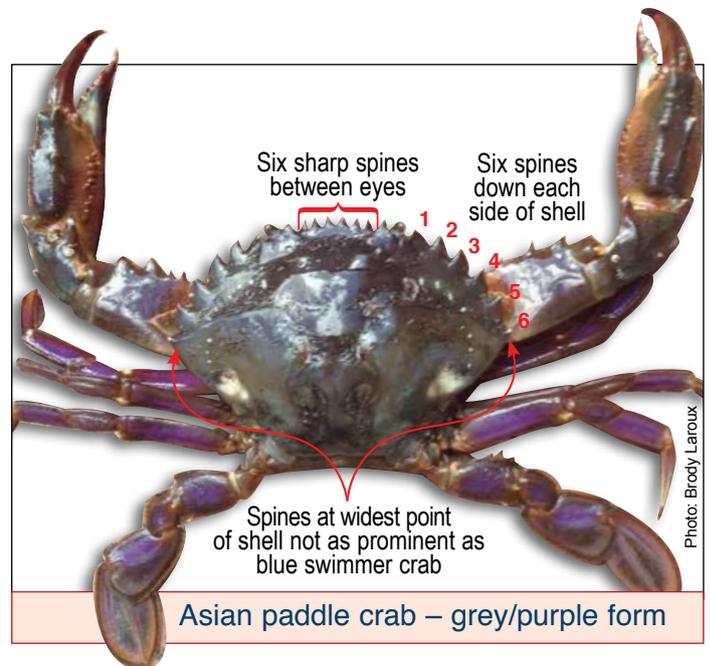
Other key points:

- ▶ Various colours – pale to olive green and brown to purple.
- ▶ Shell width up to 120mm (smaller than blue swimmers and most mud crabs).
- ▶ Found in marine areas, estuaries and the salty lower reaches of rivers.

Check carefully – Asian paddle crabs could be mistaken for other crab species and returned to the water.

REPORT

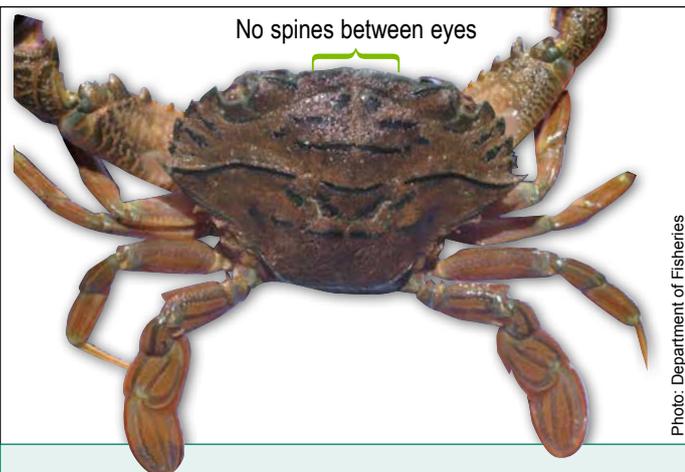
Please report any Asian paddle crabs to FishWatch on **1800 815 507**.



If you think you have caught or seen an Asian paddle crab:

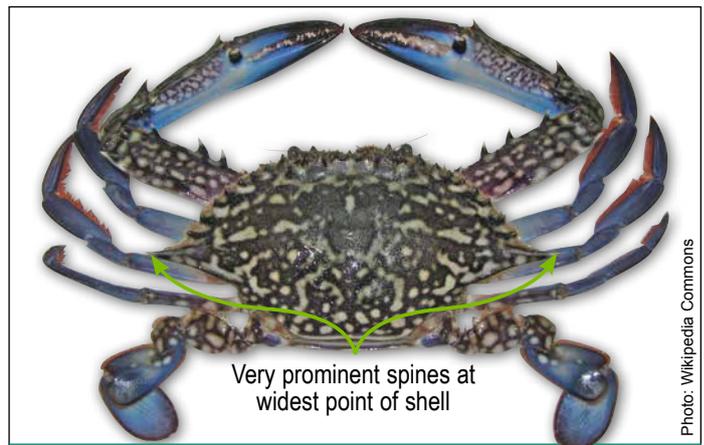
1. Examine each crab closely and compare to the photographs on this pest alert. If in any doubt, please retain the animal.
2. Make a note of when and where you saw or caught it, including GPS readings (if possible).
3. Take photographs of it from above (like those featured in this leaflet), and also from directly below.
4. Please keep the crab and contact the FishWatch 24 hour hotline on **1800 815 507**
- you should do this before coming ashore or as soon as possible after, so a Fisheries and Marine Officer can make contact with you and provide further advice.
5. If you keep and report a suspected Asian paddle crab, it will not be included as part of your daily bag limit of crabs.
6. Visit fish.wa.gov.au to discover more about maintaining good vessel hygiene to avoid spreading marine pests.

Do not confuse the Asian paddle crab with these native species:



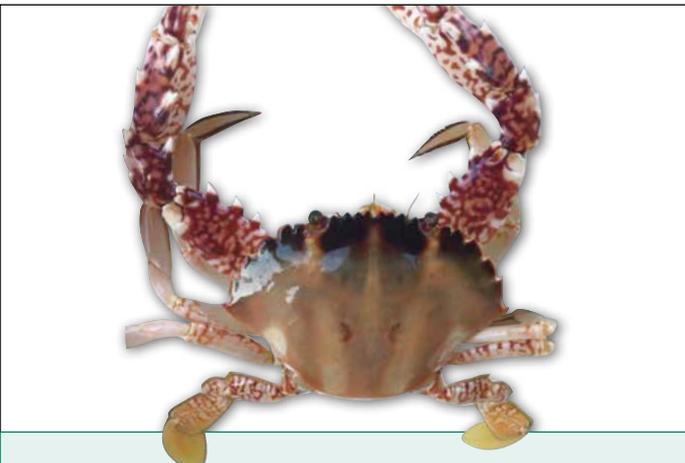
Four-lobed swimming crab (*Thalamita sima*)

- Rusty red to aqua blue or green.
- Shell width up to 60 mm, no size limit. Bag limit applies*.



Blue swimmer crab (*Portunus armatus*)

- Males mottled bright blue to purple, females mottled brown
- Shell width up to 210mm, minimum size limit 127mm.
- Bag and boat limits apply*.



Coral crab (*Charybdis feriata*)

- Marbled reddish brown claws.
- Shell width up to 170mm, no size limit. Bag limit applies*.



Sand crab (*Ovalipes australiensis*)

- Two dark red spots on the carapace.
- Shell width up to 100mm, no size limit. Bag limit applies*.

* For the most up-to-date fishing information visit fish.wa.gov.au

Important disclaimer

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