



Crabbing in the Gascoyne Region

Minimum size limit

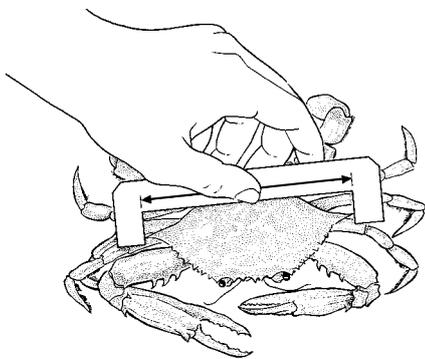


Blue swimmer crabs – 127 mm



Green mud crabs – 150 mm

Measure from the tips of the spikes across the widest part of the shell. Always use a crab gauge, available from tackle shops.



Quick release



Keeping undersize crabs or 'berried' (egg-carrying) females is illegal and you could be fined up to \$5,000. Gently return these crabs to the water within **five minutes** of capture.

Males and females

In blue swimmer crabs, males are more colourful than females, with rich blue on the legs and claws. Females are usually a mottled brown.

In green mud crabs, the claws are much bigger in males.

The V-shaped abdominal flap on the underside of a male crab is narrow and angular; the female's is broad, rounded and darker in colour. 'Berried' (egg-carrying) females have a spongy mass of eggs on their underside.

Male



Female



'Berried' (egg-carrying females)

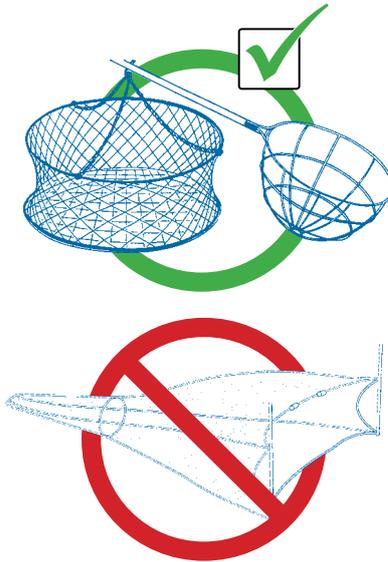
Must be returned to the water



Approved crabbing gear

Crabs can only be caught by hand or by using wire or plastic scoop nets, a maximum of 10 drop nets (per boat) or hand-held blunt wire hooks. Catching crabs by any other method including fishing or prawning nets is illegal – any crab caught this way must be released.

Note: A mud crab can be dangerous because of its big claws. When handling a mud crab take precautions: wear a glove, use tongs or distract the claws with a stick.



A Recreational Fishing from Boat Licence (RFBL) is required

If using a powered boat to fish for crabs or to get to the fishing location, at least one person on board needs an RFBL. Purchase an RFBL from the Department of Fisheries website or offices.



Blue swimmer crabs

Daily bag limit

You are allowed **20** blue swimmer crabs per person per day. You must not catch crabs for anyone else.



Boat limit (possession limit)

The possession limit is **40** crabs per boat when there are **2** or more people on board. If it is a powered boat, however, **2** or more people on board must each hold an RFBL. If only one person on board has an RFBL, the boat limit is only **20** crabs (the daily bag limit of the person who has the licence).



Green mud crabs

Daily bag limit

You are allowed **5** green mud crabs per person per day. You must not catch crabs for anyone else.



Boat limit (possession limit)

The possession limit is **10** crabs per boat when **2** or more people are on board. If it is a powered boat, however, **2** or more people on board must each hold an RFBL. If only one person on board has an RFBL, the boat limit is only **5** crabs (the daily bag limit of the person who has the licence).



Further information

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(08) 9941 1185

DENHAM DISTRICT OFFICE

Knight Tce
Denham WA 6537
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EXMOUTH DISTRICT OFFICE

10 Maley St
Exmouth WA 6707
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www.fish.wa.gov.au

Fish for the future

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