

Not Wanted



Red swamp crayfish

Alias: *Procambarus clarkii*

Native: Southeastern and central United States drainages along the Gulf of Mexico.

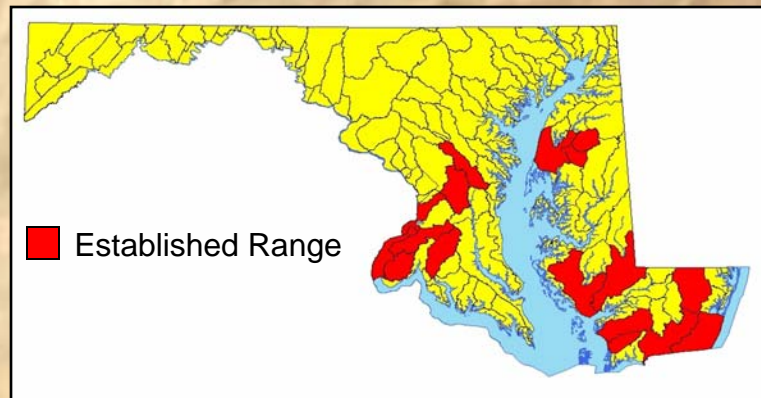
Size: Over five inches in length, not including claws.

Description: The red swamp crayfish has a brown, red, or black body with long and narrow red-tipped claws abundantly speckled with bright red tubercles. It favors sluggish streams, rivers, reservoirs, swamps, marshes, and seasonally flooded areas. It can also create shallow burrows during dry conditions.

Impacts to Aquatic Ecosystem: Red swamp crayfish is a fierce, aggressive species that prefers the same habitat as the native white river crayfish. Much like other non-native crayfish, this invader directly out-competes native crayfish for optimal habitat and shared food resources. This makes the native white river crayfish more vulnerable to competition and predation. This species has been inadvertently introduced to southern Europe where it has decimated native crayfish populations. It can also negatively affect aquatic invertebrate communities, aquatic vegetation, and amphibian populations.

Means of Introduction: Aquaculture of red swamp crayfish in outdoor ponds has resulted in the introduction of this species in Maryland streams and rivers. Introductions have also likely resulted from the pet trade and bait industry.

Status in Maryland: It has been found in the Potomac, Patuxent, Chester, Pocomoke, and Nanticoke rivers, as well as tributaries to Chincoteague Bay.



Look-A-Likes: Red swamp crayfish can be confused with other types of crayfish, although it is easily distinguishable by its long, narrow claws containing bright red tubercles.

Legal Standing: Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase, and possession in Maryland.
*Special provisions for delivering specimens to authorities, visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

For more information on invasive species in Maryland visit www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives.

