

Australian Crayfish of the Genus *Cherax*

Identification This group of Australian species range in color, but many are blue-green to blue. The Red Claw crayfish (pictured here) has distinct red patches on the edge of the claws.

Why is it a Problem? Unlike most native crayfish, some *Cherax* species are capable of spawning 3 to 5 times a year given appropriate temperatures. Thus, introduced *Cherax* can quickly establish a population and compete with native crayfish for food and habitat.

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.



Range/Habitat Native to Australia.

Similar Species Crayfish of the genus *Cherax* are generally similar to native American crayfish in their anatomy, reproduction and feeding habits. However, they are generally larger in size

Method of Introduction Escapement from aquaculture facilities; intentional and unintentional releases by aquarium and pond enthusiasts

Control and Prevention Never release live, unused bait or unwanted pets. Educate others about the problems of invasive species.

Legal Status

Sources:

<http://texinfo.library.unt.edu/texasregister/html/2008/may-23/adopted/31.NATURAL%20RESOURCES%20AND%20CONSERVATION.html>

<http://rnbr.nus.edu.sg/nis/bulletin2010/2010nis099-102.pdf>

http://aquanic.org/publicat/usda_rac/efs/srac/244fs.pdf

<http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/aquaculture/aussieredclawcrayfish.pdf>