Green Crab  
*Carcinus manenas*

**Identification**  
Color variable & mottled – green to brown, grey to red; black spots on palm of claws; last pair of legs somewhat flattened with hair.

**Why is it a Problem?**  
Increases competition for food and habitat; may have a negative impact on shellfish and crustacean populations; may harm eelgrass transplants.

**Range/Habitat**  
Established in coastal bays and mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

**Similar Species**  
Similar to Japanese shore crab (also invasive), but is less boxy and has and 4 rather than 3 pairs of walking legs.

**Legal Status**  
Prohibited from being removed from the waters of one watershed and introduced into the waters of another watershed. Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

**Method of Introduction**  
How did the species get here?

**Control and Prevention**  
Do not release live green crabs into the environment. Do not use live green crabs for fishing bait

*Want to know more? Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.*