

Japanese Shore Crab

Hemigrapsus sanguineus

Identification Boxy carapace with three marginal teeth toward the front of each side; alternating light and dark bands on the legs; has small hard bubble at the crux of its claws.

Why is it a Problem? Competes with native crabs for food and habitat.



[paste map here]

Range/Habitat Has been found in Maryland coastal bays.

Similar Species Similar-looking to the European Green Crab, but has 3 rather than 5 spines along each side of its carapace.

Legal Status Prohibited from being removed from the waters of one watershed and introduced into the waters of another watershed.

Method of Introduction Was first identified on American shores in New Jersey in 1988. Was probably introduced via ballast water.

Control and Prevention Do not release live Japanese shore crabs into the environment. Do not use live Japanese shore crabs for bait.

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