# 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.

## 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.

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*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.*