



AQUATIC BIOSECURITY PEST ALERT

Asian paddle crab (*Charybdis japonica*)

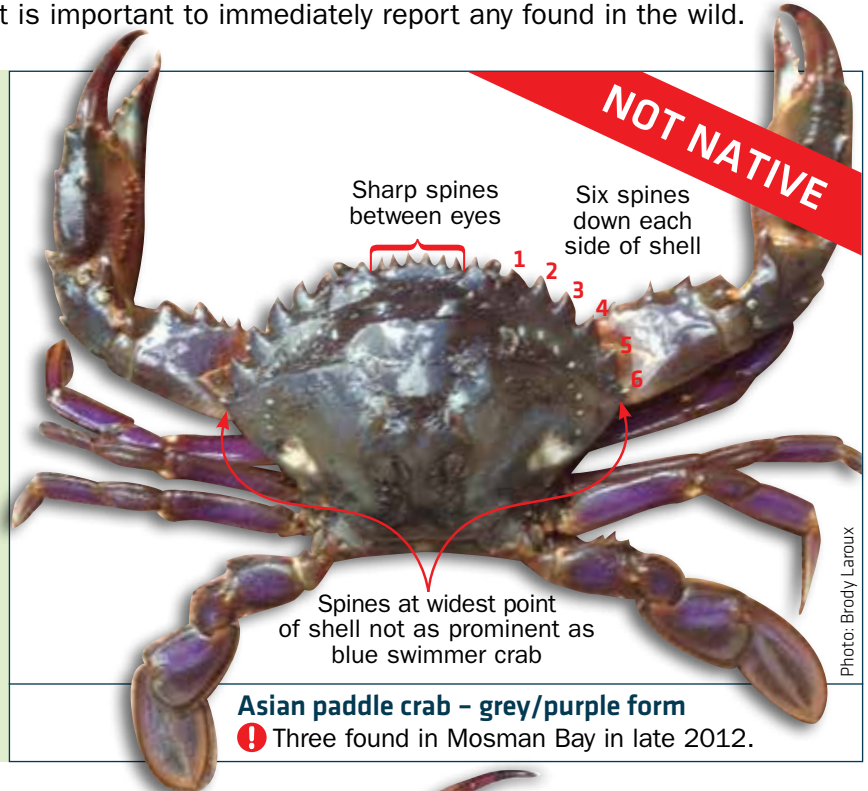
Have you seen this crab?

The Asian paddle crab is an aggressive non-native crab that could spread devastating disease to prawns, crabs and lobsters. It can carry a disease that causes poisoning in humans, and could out-compete native crabs like our iconic blue swimmer. The paddle crab is not currently established in Australia, but has significant potential to do so and to become a major pest, so it is important to immediately report any found in the wild.

Other key points

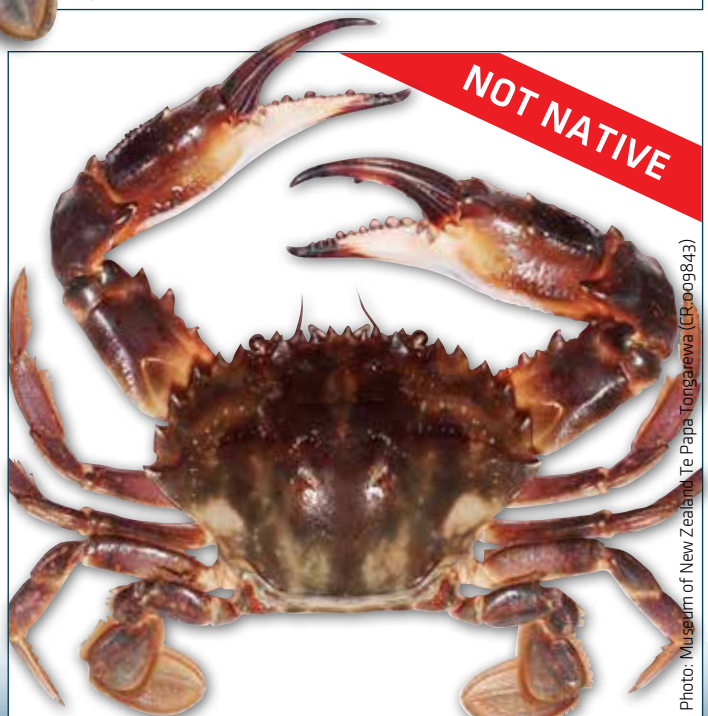
- Various colours – pale to olive green and brown to purple
- Shell width up to 120 mm (smaller than blue swimmers and most mud crabs)
- Found in marine areas, estuaries and the salty lower reaches of rivers
- May be near pylons, concrete and other disturbed areas

Check carefully – paddle crabs are being mistaken for other species (particularly under-sized mud crabs) and returned to the water.



Asian paddle crab – lighter form

- ⚠ Crab handed in at Mandurah in 2010.
- ⚠ Crab found in Matilda Bay in late 2014.



Asian paddle crab – browner form

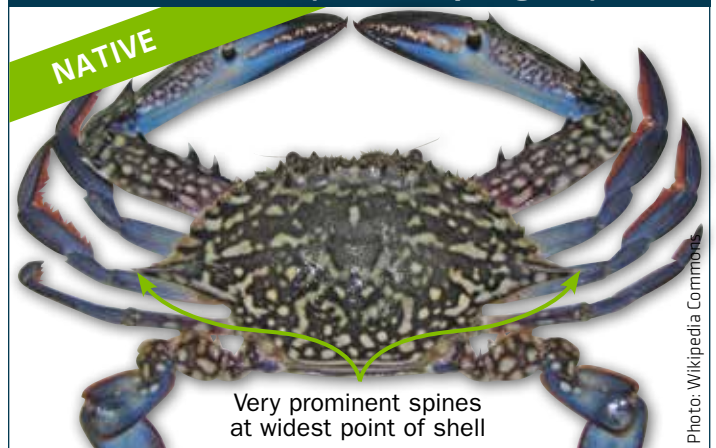
Do not confuse the Asian paddle crab with these native species:

Four-lobed swimming crab (*Thalamita sima*)



- Rusty red to aqua blue or green.
- Shell width up to 60 mm, no size limit. Bag limit applies*.

Blue swimmer crab (*Portunus pelagicus*)



- Males mottled bright blue to purple, females mottled brown
- Shell width up to 210 mm, minimum size limit 127 mm. Bag and boat limits apply*.

Coral crab (*Charybdis feriata*)



- Marbled reddish brown nippers.
- Shell width up to 170 mm, no size limit. Bag limit applies*.

Brown and green mud crabs (*Scylla* species)



- Males have large solid nippers.
- Shell width up to about 145 mm (brown) and 300 mm (green), minimum size limit 120 mm (brown), 150 mm (green). Bag and boat limits apply*.

* For the most up-to-date fishing information contact your local Department of Fisheries office or visit www.fish.wa.gov.au

If you think you have caught or seen an Asian paddle crab:

1. Do not eat it.
2. Examine each crab closely and compare to the photographs on this pest alert. **If in any doubt, please retain the animal.**
3. Make a note of when and where you saw or caught it, including GPS readings (if possible).
4. Take photographs of it from above (like those featured in this leaflet), and also from directly below.
5. **Please keep the crab and contact the FishWatch number 1800 815 507** – you should do this before coming ashore or as soon as possible after, so a Fisheries and Marine Officer can make contact with you and provide further advice.
6. If you keep and report a suspected Asian paddle crab, it will not be included as part of your daily bag limit of crabs.
7. Visit www.fish.wa.gov.au to discover more out about maintaining good vessel hygiene to avoid spreading marine pests.

Further information

biosecurity@fish.wa.gov.au

www.fish.wa.gov.au/biosecurity

www.marinepests.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/852110/Charybdis-japonica.pdf

Fish for the future

