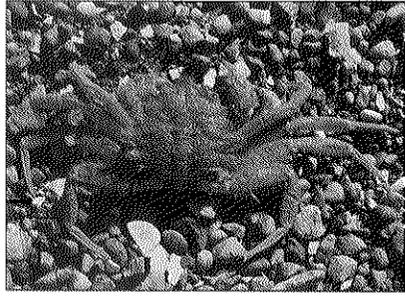
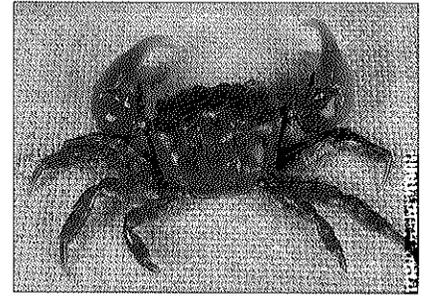


# CRAB

The European green crab can be mistaken for these native shore crabs:



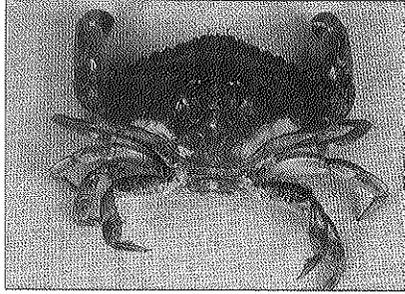
*Telmessus cheiragonus*  
Common name: Helmet crab



*Hemigrapsus oregonensis*  
Common name: Hairy shore crab

## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

### Washington



*Cancer productus*  
Common name: Red rock crab



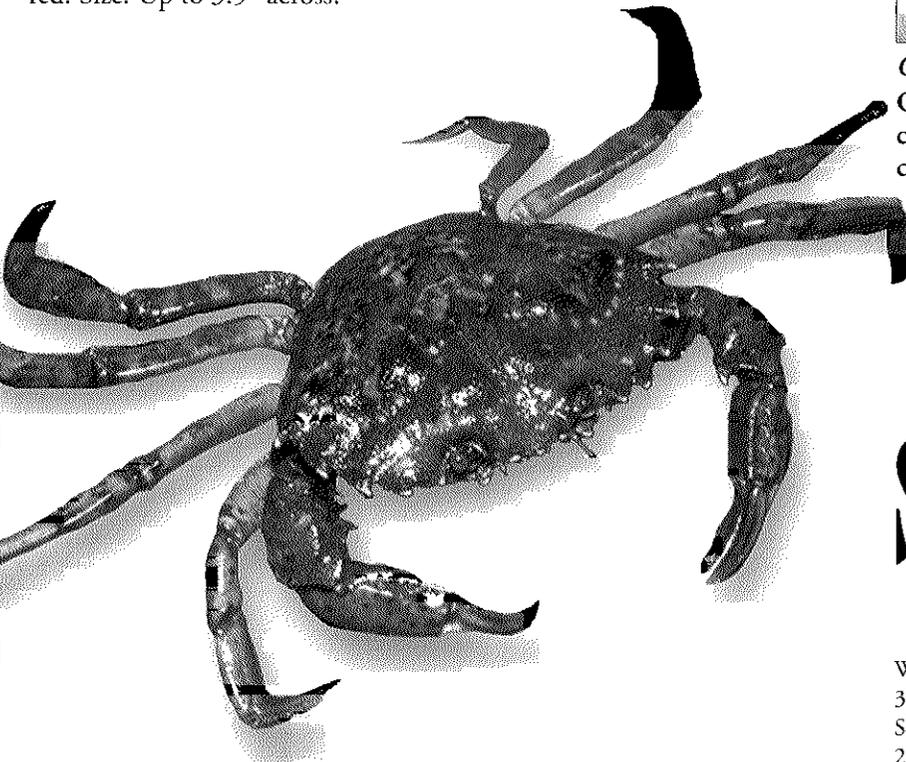
*Cancer magister*  
Common name: Dungeness crab

*It is illegal to possess or transport live green crabs in the state of Washington without a permit. If you find any European green crab, please note the time, place and date of the sighting and call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 360.796.4601.*

Although often referred to as "green crab," color is not its distinguishing feature. The actual color can vary from dark mottled green to orange or red. Size: Up to 3.5" across.



*Carcinus maenas*  
Common names: European green crab, European shore crab, green crab, shore crab

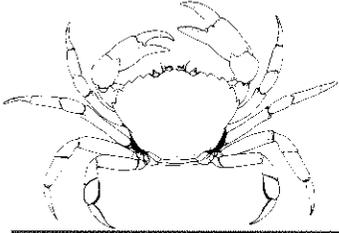


  
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# EUROPEAN GREEN

## EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB



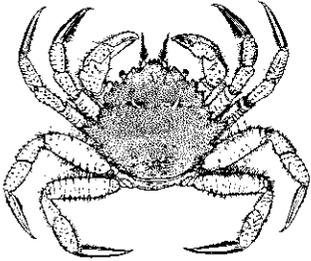
Five spines or teeth on each side of the shell (carapace)

Three rounded lobes between eyes (frontal area)

Last pair of legs somewhat flattened

*Carcinus maenas* European green crab: Mottled, dark green to orange or red. Up to 3.5" across the shell (carapace). Carapace more broad than long. Habitat: Intertidal and shallow subtidal areas of estuaries, usually at depths < 20'. Can be associated with cordgrass (*spartina*) or eelgrasses.

## HELMET OR HORSE CRAB



Large jagged spines or teeth on each side of carapace

Frontal area protrudes past eyes

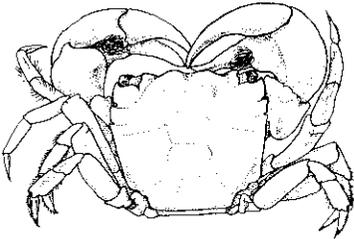
Entire body covered with stiff bristly hairs

Long, bristly antennae

Spiny, short front claws

*Telmessus cheiragonus* Helmet crab: Predominantly yellowish green, tips of claws dark. Up to 4". Carapace more wide than long with jagged triangular teeth, hairy. Habitat: Intertidal to 360'. Prefers subtidal areas on sandy or muddy tideflats, among eelgrass or algae. In early spring sometimes found among algae-covered rocks.

## YELLOW OR HAIRY SHORE CRAB



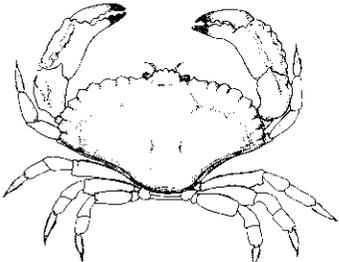
Three spines or teeth on each side of carapace

Two lobes on frontal area

Hairy legs

*Hemigrapsus oregonensis* Yellow shore crab: Varies from dull brownish-green to mottled gray, grayish green or muddy yellow. Up to 1.5". Carapace rectangular, more wide than long with a smooth surface. The most abundant and widespread crab in Puget Sound. *H. nudus* is similar in shape but generally reddish-purple or dark purple. Habitat: Intertidal, under rocks on sheltered mud or gravel beaches, sometimes burrows into mud banks of estuaries.

## RED ROCK CRAB



Ten spines or teeth each side, somewhat broad and rounded

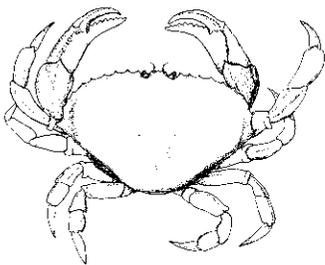
Frontal area protrudes beyond eyes

Claws are dark at the tips

Reddish color

*Cancer productus* Red rock crab: Adults generally uniform reddish color. Up to 5"-6", sometimes larger. Carapace broadly oval, uneven, slightly convex. Habitat: Middle intertidal to 260'. Can be found on a wide variety of substrates, but most commonly on gravel, rock, and among eelgrass.

## DUNGENESS CRAB



Broadly oval, uneven, carapace with ten spines or teeth, widest at the tenth and final tooth

Narrow frontal area with five unequal teeth

Light-colored leg tips

Large size of adults

*Cancer magister* Dungeness crab: Generally light reddish-brown, often light orange below; sometimes gray-purple. Little variation in color or pattern. Can be 9" or larger, but generally to about 7". Habitat: Low intertidal to 750' in substrates from mud to sand. Most common on sandy bottoms, eelgrass beds, usually buried during the day. Found in Northwest estuaries and offshore waters; near shore and bays in summers.

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A publication of the University of Washington pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA76RG0119. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its sub-agencies. Partial support provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior.

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