



# Asian shore crab

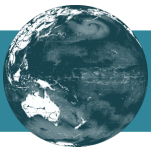
REPUBLIC OF THE  
MARSHALL ISLANDS

*Hemigrapsus sanguineus* (De Haan, 1853)

## KEY FEATURES



- Relatively small, square-shelled crab, carapace width 35–40 mm
- Colour in life green, purple, orange-brown or red, with shaded bands on legs and red spots on claws
- Presence of three spines on each side of carapace a distinguishing feature
- Males have a fleshy, bulb-like structure on claws
- Inhabits hard-bottom intertidal and shallow subtidal areas
- Opportunistic omnivore feeding on algae, salt marsh grass, larval and juvenile fish, small invertebrates
- Larval stage up to one month in optimal conditions, adults have a wide temperature tolerance

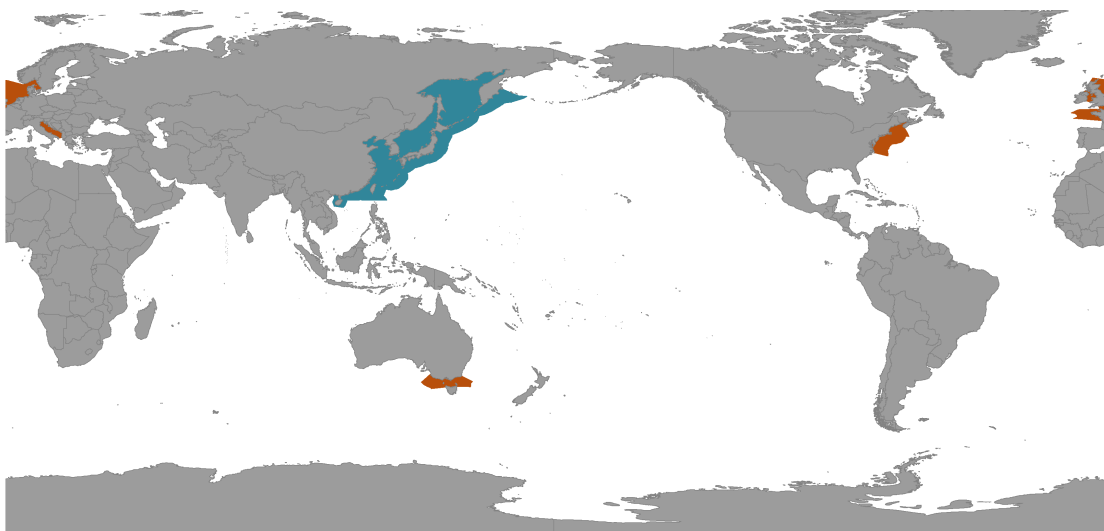


## PATHWAY

✓ ballast water

✓ biofouling

- Native
- Cryptogenic
- Non-indigenous





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## IMPACTS



Environmental  
impacts

Broad diet and can predate on native crabs, fish, and shellfish. It has become a dominant crab species in rocky intertidal habitats as it outcompetes native crab species for habitat and food



Human health  
impacts

None known



Social & cultural  
impacts

None known



Economic  
impacts

Predates on commercial species of blue mussels, soft shell clams, and oysters as well as juvenile lobsters, negatively impacting commercial species catches

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- High reproductive rate; can produce up to 50 000 eggs per clutch with three to four clutches per breeding season

## DISTRIBUTION

**Not present in the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

### Native range

Native to the Western Pacific from Russia to China including Japan and Korea

### Non-indigenous range

East Coast of the USA, from New Hampshire to Delaware. Also, in Europe from Croatia in the Adriatic Sea, west and north to France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, and a few individuals found in the Baltic in Sweden

## CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

### Images

Top: Evan Dankowicz ([CC BY 4.0](#)), middle: Daniel J Drew ([CC0 1.0](#)), bottom: LeBourgmaster ([CC BY-SA 4.0](#))

### References

[Epifanio \(2013\)](#), [McDermott \(1998\)](#), [Hudson et al. \(2018\)](#), [Cohen et al. \(2015\)](#), [Rato et al. \(2021\)](#)