**Carcinus maenas**

Green Crab, European Shore Crab

**Carapace (Shell)**

Look for a carapace (shell) that is up to 10 cm wide and has FIVE spines on the outside of each eye. The shell is shaped like a pentagon (5 sides). Hint: Green has five letters and the Green Crab has five spines.

**Full View**

Look for an aggressive crab with a pentagon-shaped shell. They can be green, brown, or red.

**Legs and Claws**

Look for claws that are thin and have sharp tips. Watch out, they are fast!

**INVASIVE SPECIES (LESS THAN SIX SPINES)**

- 3 spines: Hemigrapsus sanguineus
- 4 spines: Eriocheir sinensis

**INVASIVE SPECIES (MORE THAN SIX SPINES)**

- 5 spines: Carcinus maenas
- 8-10 spines: Cancer irroratus

**Native Species (More than six spines)**

- 8-10 spines: Cancer borealis

**Similar Species**

All other invasive crabs in Maine have square-shaped shells. The adult native species in Maine are larger than the invasives and have more than 6 spines on the outside of each eye. If you find a crab with fewer than 6 spines you have found a non-native species!

**Fun Fact**

The Green Crab is quicker than most crabs. It is also better at opening the shells of mussels and clams. One adult green crab can eat up to 40 clams a day and can even eat other crabs as large as itself.

**Additional**

The Green Crab can be many different colors. Only 5% of adults are green. It is important to look at the shape of the shell, not the color, when identifying this species.

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