

Hemigrapsus penicillatus

Invasive to Maine

Hairy-Clawed Shore Crab,
Pacific Crab

Coastal
Rocky Intertidal

Carapace (Shell)



Photo by Fillip Nuyttens, www.marinespecies.com



Look for a carapace (shell) that is up to 6 cm wide and has **THREE** spines or teeth on the outside of each eye. The belly of the crab is white. Flip it over and take a look.

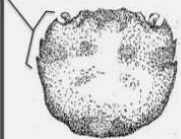
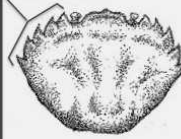
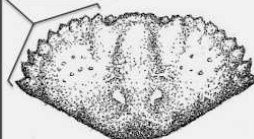
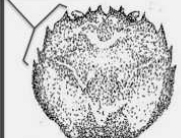


Full View



Photo by JP Vanderperren, www.marinespecies.com



Look for a small aggressive crab that is found on rocky or muddy bottoms.

| INVASIVE SPECIES (LESS THAN SIX SPINES) | | NATIVE SPECIES (MORE THAN SIX SPINES) |
|--|---|---|
| 3 spines  Hemigrapsus sanguineus | 5 spines  Carcinus maenas | 8-10 spines  Cancer irroratus |
| 4 spines  Eriocheir sinensis | 3 spines  Hemigrapsus penicillatus | 8-10 spines  Cancer borealis |

Legs and Claws



Photo by Fillip Nuyttens, www.marinespecies.com



Look for sponge-like tuft of hair on the claw (between the pinchers).

Additional



Photo by JP Vanderperren, www.marinespecies.com



The Hairy-Clawed Shore Crab can survive in saltwater or freshwater. Though it is most often found in the ocean, it can sometimes be found in rivers.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

The Hairy-Clawed Shore Crab is very similar to Asian Shore Crab. One easy way to tell the two apart is to look at the claws. The Hairy-Clawed Shore Crab has a hairy tuft between the pinchers of the claw. The Asian Shore Crab has a fleshy bulb-like structure in the same spot.

Fun Fact

The Hairy-Clawed Shore Crab can survive a range of temperatures from tropical to freezing waters. It can also lay eggs up to six times a year!