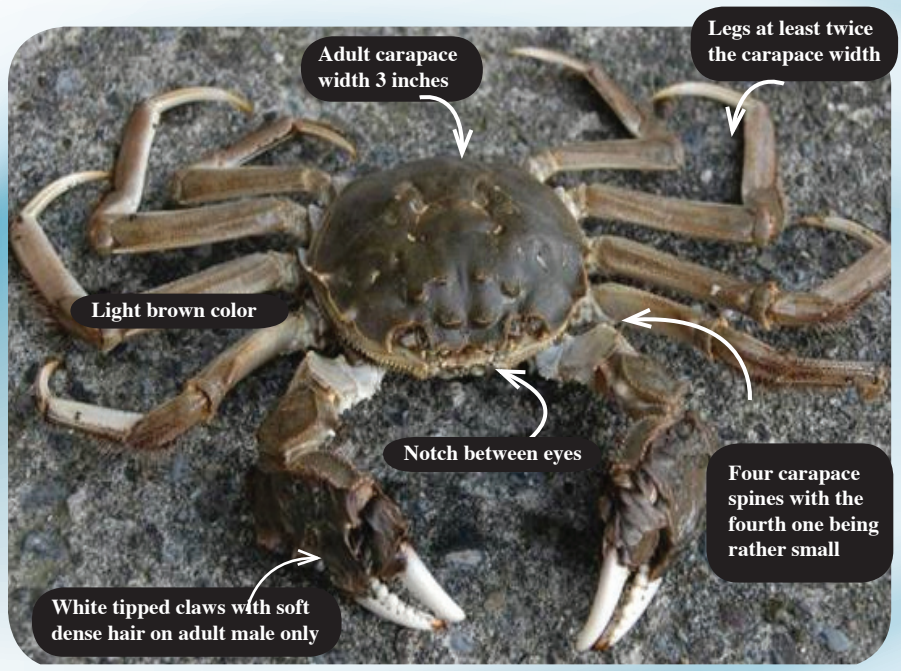
ALERT!

POSSIBLE INVADERS TO OUR WATERS!

PHOTOGRAPH and note the LOCATION and DATE of capture.
Report sightings to kcute@crmc.ri.gov or call 401-783-3370.

CHINESE MITTEN CRAB (*Eriocheir sinensis*)



Native to East Asia, the Chinese mitten crab is a new arrival to the east coast. Juvenile crabs spend up to five years in freshwater. Mature adults migrate downstream in the spring to mate and spawn in saltwater. Females can produce 250,000 to 1 million eggs in one reproductive cycle. They easily walk out of water around land barriers, and their burrows erode banks. Exploding numbers may clog pumps and water intakes and consume native plants and animals.

Fishermen, boaters and local citizens are most likely to notice them. Adults often have been found in traps and crab pots, and the juveniles have been seen along rivers and in fish ladders.

CONFIRMED LIVE CHINESE MITTEN CRAB SIGHTINGS ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST

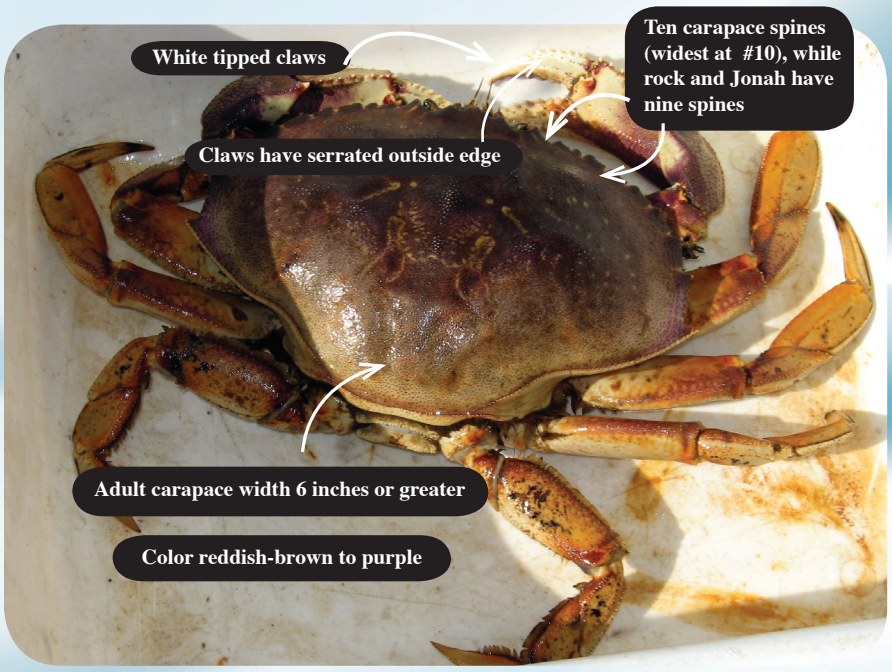
2005	2007	2009	?
Chesapeake Bay	Hudson River and Delaware Bay	New Jersey	Where next?

DUNGENESS CRAB (*Cancer magister*)

Thus far, two Dungeness crabs have been caught off the coast of Gloucester, MA. In 2006, a three-pound crab caught by a gill-netter was the first confirmed report of a Dungeness crab in Atlantic waters. In 2009, another nearly two-pound Dungeness crab was caught.

This species is native to the U.S. West Coast, and how it arrived here remains a mystery. However, releases from the live fish market or from ships are the most likely routes.

Adult Dungeness crabs are primarily found in deep water. They are also much larger than the native rock and Jonah crabs.



NEVER release into the wild any non-native animal or plant.
IF IN DOUBT, JUST DON'T!

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