



Asian Shore Crab

Hemigrapsus sanguineus

History

- * First recorded in the United States at Townsend Inlet, Cape May County, New Jersey in 1988
- * May have been introduced via discharge of ship ballast water transported from the western North Pacific Ocean

Characteristics

- * Commonly orange-brown, also green and maroon
- * Light and dark bands on legs with red spots on the claws
- * Square-shaped carapace (shell) with 3 spines on each side
- * Can grow up to 2-3 in (5-7.6 cm) wide

Habitat

- * Prefers rocks and cobble, but may be found in soft sediments and other habitats
- * Primarily in mid to low intertidal zones; sometimes below the low-tide line
- * Tolerant of a wide range of salinity and temperature
- * Tends to aggregate in large numbers under rocks

Known Distribution

- * Maine to North Carolina
- * Native to Russia, Korea, China, and Japan

Impacts

- * Eats young clams, mussels, oysters, larval and juvenile fish, algae, salt marsh grass, and many other species
- * May threaten aquaculture



Asian shore crab

Credit: N. Balcom, CT Sea Grant



Closeup of Asian shore crab

Credit: Save the Bay



Asian shore crab

Credit: GFDL



Asian shore crab
Credit: Save the Bay

