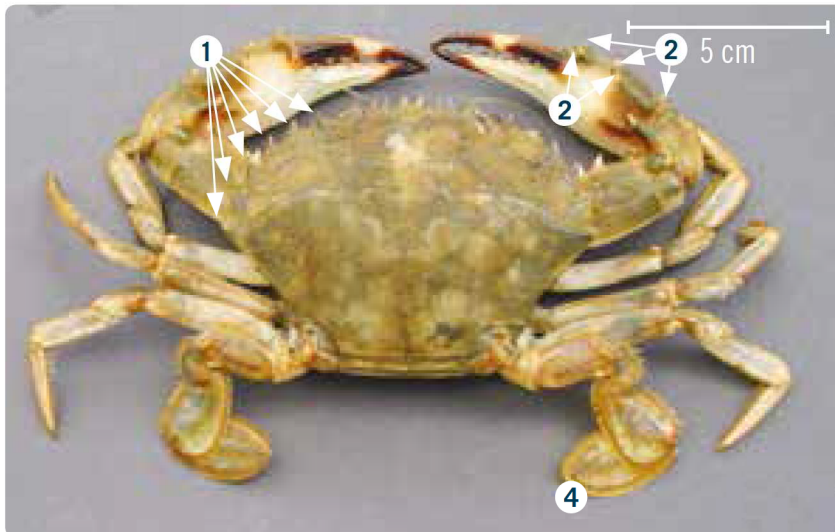


ASIAN PADDLE CRAB

Charybdis japonica

Key features

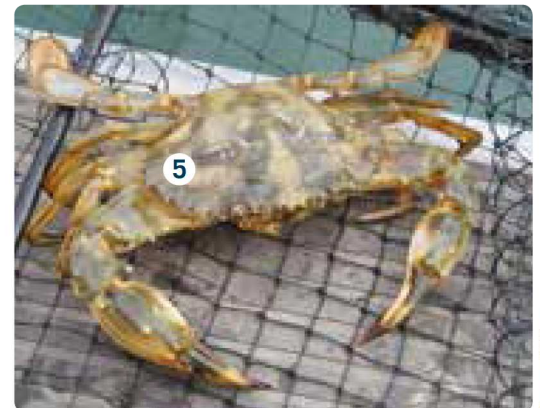
- ❶ Six prominent spines on each side of the carapace
- ❷ Five prominent spines on upper surface of each claw



- ❸ Carapace up to 12 cm wide
- ❹ Flattened swimming paddles on back legs



- ❺ Colour ranges from off-white and pale green, through olive-green to a deep chestnut brown with purplish markings



Habitat

- Low tide to 15 m depth
- Sand and mud
- Estuaries, harbours and most coastal habitats

Impact

- Highly detrimental to shellfish aquaculture
- Aggressive predator
- Displaces native and fisheries species
- Can carry diseases that affect crab, lobster, shrimp and prawn fisheries



Report if found outside known locations

0800 80 99 66

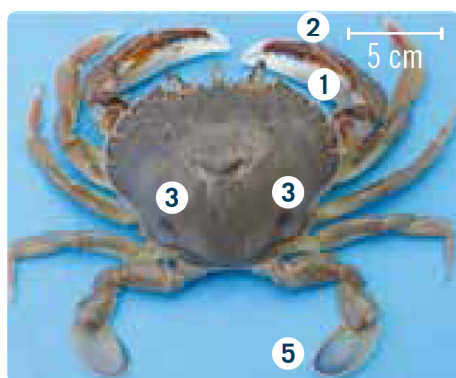
NATIVE SPECIES THAT LOOK SIMILAR



Colin McLay

How to differentiate *Charybdis japonica* from:

Ovalipes catharus SWIMMING/PADDLE CRAB



Colin McLay

- 1 *Ovalipes* has five flattened spines on each side along the front and extending around the sides (not six pointed spines along the front as in *C. japonica*)
- 2 One prominent spine on the claw
- 3 Two distinct reddish “spots” on the carapace
- 4 Pale sandy-grey with orange-red highlights
- 5 Swimming paddles often with purplish tint

Liocarcinus corrugatus DWARF SWIMMING CRAB



Colin McLay

- 1 *Liocarcinus* has five spines on each side (not six)
- 2 Much smaller – maximum 2.5 cm wide
- 3 Fine corrugations over most of the shell

Nectocarcinus antarcticus HAIRY RED SWIMMING CRAB



Colin McLay

- 1 *Nectocarcinus* has four spines on each side (not six)
- 2 Red to pinkish-red colouration