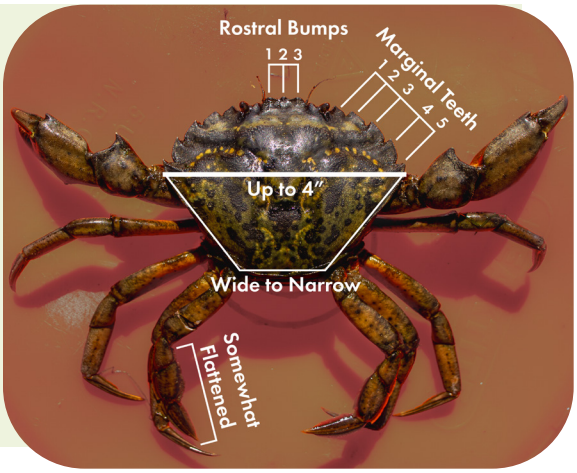
Invasive Species in Alaska

EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB

THE PROBLEM

- European green crab are **aggressive invasive shore crabs** that prey on juvenile Dungeness and other native crabs, clams, mussels, and shellfish that are important food sources for Pacific salmon, groundfish, and waterfowl, as well as Alaskans.
- The foraging habits of European green crab **destroy eelgrass meadows** essential nursery habitat for juvenile salmon, other native fish and shellfish.
- Although most of coastal Southeast Alaska has not been surveyed, these invasive crabs have been found to be established around **Annette Islands Reserve**, **Ketchikan**, and a remote bay near **Kasaan** (Prince of Wales Island). Last fall, ADF&G received a report of a green crab from **Etolin Island** near Wrangell, the most northerly observation.



European green crab with key identification characteristics highlighted. Photo by Sebastian Velazquez

WHAT WE'RE DOING

- A network of coastal community and agency partners is actively engaged in **early detection monitoring** for European green crab, though significant gaps remain.
- As capacity allows, partners **respond to new detections** to verify presence and gain insights into the green crab abundance and distribution.
- With minimal resources, communities are left to manage these invaders to protect local fisheries and habitat.



European green crab response trapping in Kasaan



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Vote "yes" on HB 191 and SB 174!

- This legislation will advance implementation of invasive species management plans, such as the **Alaska European green crab early detection and response plan**.
- **Funding support is needed** as current capacity prevents functional eradication of new and known populations of invasive green crabs. **Local communities are footing the bill** to manage invasive crabs in state waters.

CONSEQUENCES OF NO ACTION

A cascade of impacts is expected, beginning with the **decimation of nearshore and eelgrass habitat**. This will deplete commercial, personal use, and subsistence fisheries that coastal communities need, reduce migratory bird use of the infested area, and ultimately **decrease the biodiversity necessary for a functioning intertidal ecosystem**.

LONG STORY SHORT

We can't prevent juvenile green crab from riding ocean currents to Alaska, but we can do something once they are here to protect our coastal food resources. Investing in intensive trapping reduces the harmful pressure invasive green crab exert on nearshore eelgrass habitat and valuable intertidal juvenile crabs, shellfish, and even salmon. Controlling populations of green crab means fewer juvenile green crab are released into the sea to spread up the Alaska coast.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION! REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES: 1-877-INVASIV

For additional information, contact the Alaska Invasive Species Partnership: akispboard@gmail.com

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