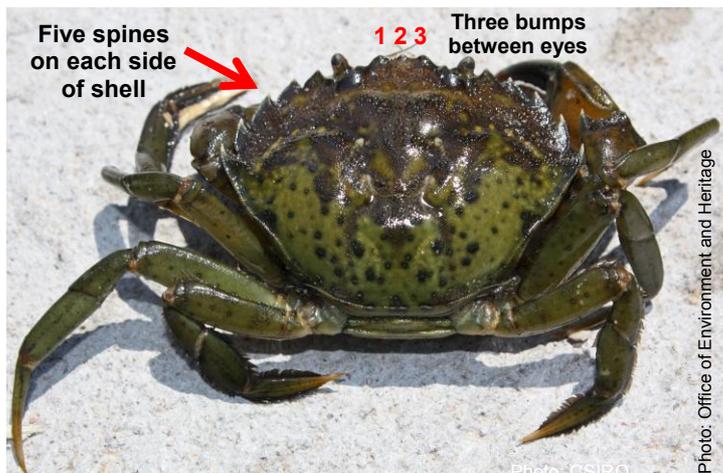




European green crab/European shore crab



The European green crab, *Carcinus maenas*, is a pest not native to Australian waters that poses a serious threat to WA's aquatic environment. This crab is currently **NOT** established in WA but can be spread from interstate by recreational and commercial vessels in ballast water or dry ballast/cargo. It can also spread in biofouling on vessels, or with aquaculture stock and equipment. If you see this pest please call the **FishWatch 24 hour hotline** on **1800 815 507**.

Key features

- Usually around 65 mm, but can grow up to 90 mm.
- Broad triangular-shaped smooth shell.
- Five spines on each side of shell.
- Adults green/brown colour, with possible red/orange on the undersides of larger animals.
- Last pair of legs have sharp and slightly flattened points – NO swimming paddles.

Impacts

- Voracious predator with a broad diet and can outcompete native species for food and habitat.
- It has been implicated in the decline of native shellfish populations elsewhere, some of commercial importance.
- Potential to impact aquaculture when present in high densities.

Where to find it?

- Prefers bays and estuaries but found on all types of shores.

- Found in temperate waters in depths of up to 60 m, though typically in the intertidal region.
- Tolerates temperatures up to 30°C.
- Established in Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. A single specimen was reported from the Swan River, WA in 1965, but none have been detected since.

What you can do

Keep an eye out for new species in your area. If you think you have found or seen an European green crab:

1. **Photograph it** – from different angles, using a scale or ruler and photos of the location where you found it.
2. **Record it** - make a note of when and where you found or saw it including GPS readings if possible.
3. **Collect it** – collect a sample in a plastic bag and refrigerate it but do not freeze.
4. **Report it** – contact the **FishWatch 24 hour hotline** on **1800 815 507**.

You can help stop this pest from spreading

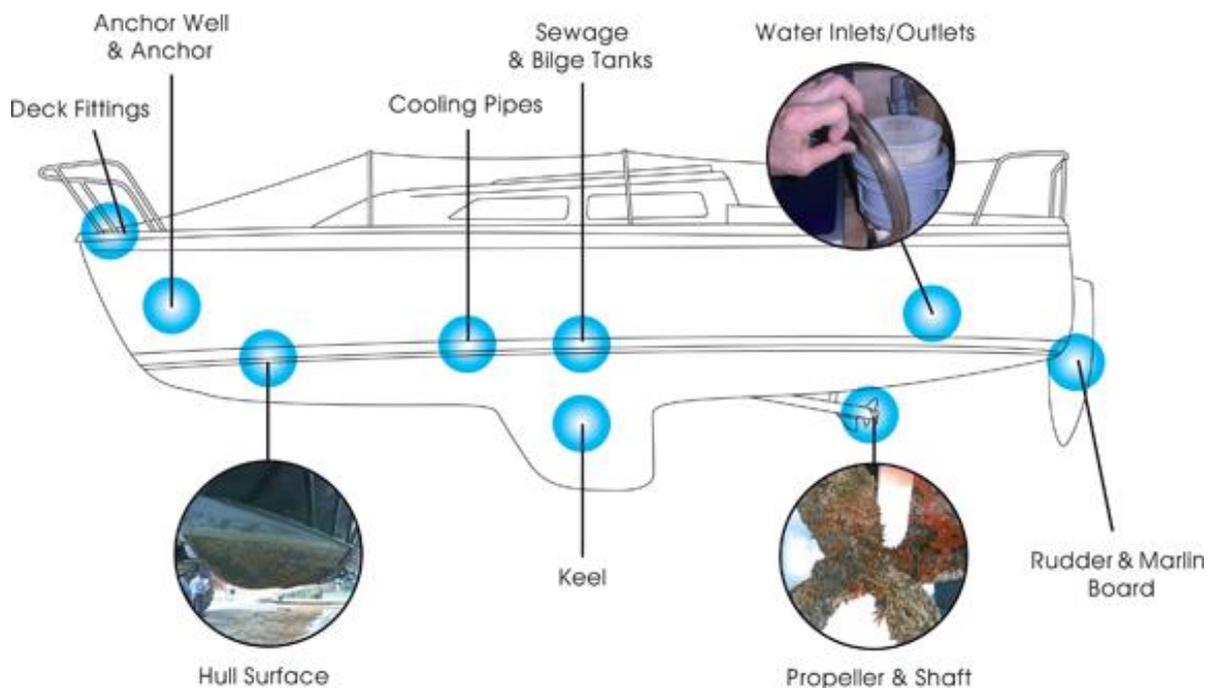
Check your vessel is clean by regular inspection of the hull and niche areas like internal seawater systems, and dislodge any live crabs or other debris. Also inspect and clean any dry ballast or cargo like rocks and sand, and aquaculture stock and equipment.

Levels of biofouling on your vessel should be kept to a minimum (slime layer), particularly on unpainted areas. This will reduce fuel costs and increase performance. Also pump out all seawater before travel, or in deep water far away from land.

Environmentally-friendly methods should be used to keep the hull clean – keep it out of the water, tarp it when not in use, or clean it at a slipway, dry dock or on land. Don't clean the hull in the water, on the beach or at the boat ramp where pests and other contaminants can get back into the water, without first checking with the relevant authorities.

Antifouling paint should be renewed regularly, in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, and should be suitable for your vessel's intended activity.

Never travel into or out of WA without first taking these steps, and keeping records of them and your voyage history in case of queries. If you are travelling within the State, it is also recommended you take these steps.



Pay particular attention to the above niche areas on a recreational vessel where biofouling can accumulate.

Taking these actions is particularly important for **recreational and commercial vessels**, dry ballast and cargo, and aquaculture equipment and stock coming from **interstate where this pest species is found**.

Vessel skippers carrying this species could be in breach of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994* and regulations and are urged to ensure their vessels are clean before they travel into or out of Western Australia (it is illegal to import or possess live European green crabs in WA).