

INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET



Common Name: Chinese Mitten Crab
Family: Crustacean
Order: Decapoda
Class: Grapsidae
Species: *Eriocheir sinensis*
Other names: Mitten crab
Origin: Native to China and Korea
Size: Carapace (shell) width is 1.25 -3 inches

Description:

- The Mitten crab received its name from the dense patch of fur-like hair on its claws which resemble mittens.
- Claws are white tipped and about equal size.
- Smooth, round body shape (carapace).
- Carapace has a notch in the middle (between eyes).
- Four spines on each side of the carapace.
- Light brown color.
- Long legs about twice the width of the carapace.

Ecology:

- Catadromous, that is, it reproduces in saltwater estuaries and migrates upstream into freshwater to spend its juvenile life stage and then migrates back to saltwater to breed as an adult.
- Female can carry 250,000-1,000,000 eggs.
- Free floating larvae stage.
- Opportunistic feeder; mostly vegetation and small invertebrates.
- Burrows in banks.

Status: Prohibited in Oregon.

Interesting facts: Juveniles can migrate upstream a hundred miles or more and can climb over obstacles such as small dams or dikes. Mitten crabs are considered a delicacy in Asia.

Impact: Mitten crab migration can disrupt water intake structures and fish migration. The species competes with other aquatic animals for habitat and food. They can be a secondary host to the Oriental lung fluke which can infect humans. Their high burrowing density has been linked to bank and levee weakening and collapse.

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Action: If you catch one while crabbing, please do not throw it back. Freeze it or keep it on ice and call your local ODFW office for more information. To report sightings, call 1-800-INVADR or your local ODFW office.

More Information: See Oregon Administrative Rules, Division 56, IMPORTATION, POSSESSION, CONFINEMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND SALE OF NONNATIVE WILDLIFE



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