

Chinese Mitten Crab

Eriocheir sinensis

Identification Most easily identified by dense

patches of hair on white-tipped

claws

Why is it a Problem?

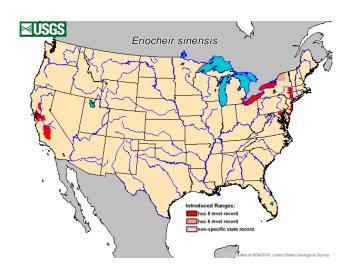
Competes with local species for food; eats eggs of native fish; builds burrows that

accelerate erosion



Range/Habitat

Last seen off Southern tip of Kent Island; recently spotted at mouth of Patapsco River at Chesapeake Beach; young crabs spend 2-5 years in freshwater tributaries and can extend over 50 miles inland; mature crabs migrate downstream to mate and spawn in salt water estuaries



Similar Species Not easily confused with

other species.

Legal Status Prohibited from import,

transport, sale, purchase and

possession in Maryland.

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.

Method of Introduction

Hitchhiked into Maryland via ballast water or via live food

industry.

Control and Prevention

Do not release live Chinese

mitten crabs into the

environment.