

# Marine invaders arrive in Alaska

In July, Metlakatla Indian Community found several invasive European green crab shells during regular monitoring at the Annette Islands Reserve. Hundreds of live crabs have been confirmed since that time.

This species is of particular concern because they negatively impact shellfish, habitat that is important to juvenile salmon and native crabs, and other marine resources. Invasive green crab have destroyed habitats and outcompeted local species in other locations.

Research on invasive green crab has shown:

- It survives in conditions found in Prince William Sound.
- Invasive crab larvae could survive in the ballast water of an oil tanker, bringing them to our region from infested waters.

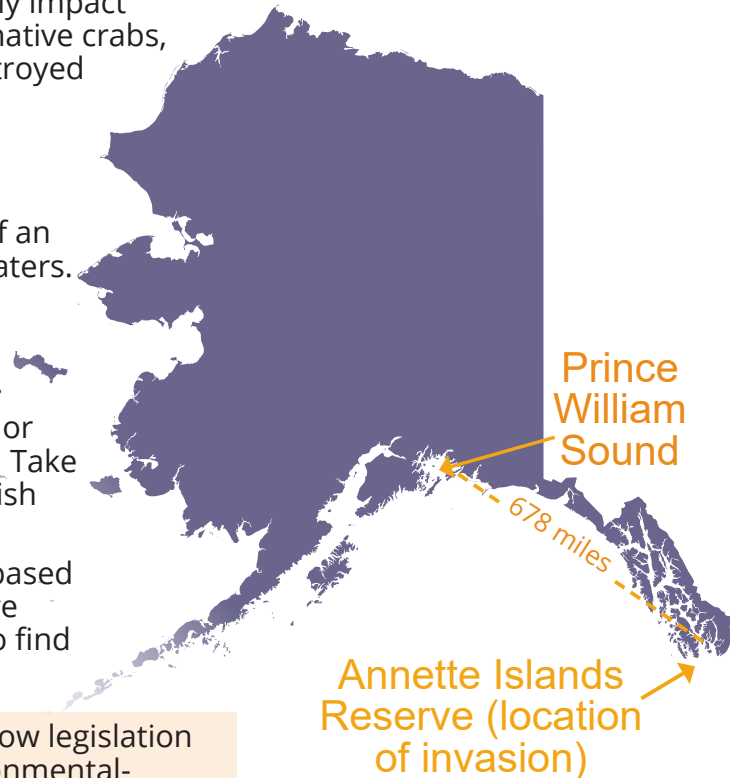
## What can you do?

**Support legislation:** Contact your legislators to support a coordinated response to invasive species threats in Alaska.

**Search and report sightings:** Look for invasive crabs, alive or dead, when you are on the beach. Do not collect the crabs. Take photos and report sightings to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

**Set up traps through ADF&G:** Join the Alaska community-based Early Detection Monitoring Network to set traps for invasive crabs along beaches in your community. Contact ADF&G to find out more: 1-877-INVASIV

Find out the favorite habitats of green crab and how to follow legislation on our website: <https://www.pwsrcac.org/programs/environmental-monitoring/marine-invasive-species/>



## How to identify a European green crab

5 spines/teeth on each side

2 eyes

3 rostral bumps

Length and width of carapace is similar

Up to 10 cm / 3.5 inches

Invasive green crab are not always green! They can be brown or green, and the bottom may be red or orange during molting.

## What to do if you see a suspected invasive crab

1. Take photos of the suspect crab
2. Report online: [www.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov), under Invasive section, or
3. Call the ADF&G Invasive Species Hotline:

**1-877-INVASIV**

Invasive European green crab, *Carcinus maenus*

