

Dungeness crab - *Metacarcinus magister*

DESCRIPTION This crab has white-tipped pinchers on the claws, and the top edges and upper pinchers are sawtoothed with dozens of teeth along each edge. The last three joints of the last pair of walking legs have a comb-like fringe of hair on the lower edge. Also the tip of the last segment of the tail flap is rounded as compared to the pointed last segment of many other crabs.

RANGE	Alaska's Aleutian Islands south to Pt Conception in California
SIZE	Carapace width to 25 cm (9 inches), but typically less than 20 cm
STATUS	Native; see the full record at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/dungeness_crab.asp
COLOR	Light reddish brown on the back, with a purplish wash anteriorly in some specimens. Underside whitish to light orange.
HABITAT	Rock, sand and eelgrass
TIDAL HEIGHT	Subtidal to offshore
SALINITY	Normal range 10–32ppt; 15ppt optimum for hatching
TEMPERATURE	Normally found from 3–19°C
SIMILAR SPECIES	Unlike the green crab, it has 10 spines on either side of the eye sockets and grows much larger. It can be distinguished from <i>Metacarcinus gracilis</i> which also has white claws, by the carapace being widest at the 10th tooth vs the 9th in <i>M. gracilis</i> . Unlike the red rock crab it has a tooth on the dorsal margin of its white tipped claw (this and other similar Cancer crabs have black tipped claws).



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