

MARONE CRAYFISH

Cherax tenuimanus

Parastacidae, the freshwater crayfish family

Other common names: marron crayfish, hairy marron crayfish

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Threatens biodiversity and ecosystem function.
- May cause significant negative impacts to native species by introducing parasites.
- Has the potential to spread disease to humans.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- One of the largest species of crayfish; can grow more than 380mm in length with specimens recorded in excess of 2kg.
- This species has jet black pincers and paler olive-green to brown body coloration; brown underside, with females displaying areas of red and some splashes of purple.
- *Cherax tenuimanus* is a temperate water species but will tolerate temperatures as high as 30°C and as low as 8°C.
- Tufts of hair-like bristles on carapace and other surfaces.
- Top of head has five ridges.
- Side of body has scattered, raised knobs.
- First pair of clawed legs are quite narrow.
- Omnivorous and feeds on dead animals and plants.

Introduction and Movement

- Native to Western Australia's Margaret River.
- Harvested by subsistence fishers as a food source in its native range.
- Present in the pet trade in the UK and Germany
- Classified by IUCN as Critically endangered in its native habitat.
- Experimentally introduced in Louisiana, USA for aquaculture purposes in the 1970s.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that all watercraft, wading gear, and other water related equipment are clean, drained, and dry between use in each waterbody.
- Use of live bait is prohibited in Idaho.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Be aware that most species of crayfish will travel over land and may easily escape ponds and water gardens.
- Always Remember: **DON'T LET IT LOOSE**

CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY

Sources

- https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ans/erss/uncertainrisk/ERSS-Cherax-tenuimanus_Final.pdf
- www.arkive.org - Rodney Duffy (transparent hairy marron image)

