

A Checklist of Alaskan Crabs

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Alaska has long been known for its crab fisheries. King crab is perhaps the most famous and valuable of these, pound for pound, although snow crab has produced both the greatest landings and the greatest revenue in recent years. However, there are many more crab species in Alaskan waters, some of which support incidental or small fisheries, and others that will never support commercial fishing due to their size or scarcity. On the occasion of this symposium, "Crab 2001", devoted to the study of crabs, and occurring in Alaska, it seemed appropriate to consider exactly what constitutes an "Alaskan crab".

The following checklist was assembled from a review of literature on intertidal and subtidal marine species in Alaskan waters, loosely defined as anything within 200 n.mi. of the Alaskan coastline (and islands). Species on the list are those that have been documented to occur in Alaskan waters, in a published reference. The exceptions are six species collected from Patton Seamount, and not previously reported from Alaskan waters, but which probably also occur on seamounts and the continental slope closer to shore. Among them, the giant large-clawed spider crab (*Macroregonia macrochira*) has not previously been observed north of 49 N. lat, but was found on Patton Seamount in the Gulf of Alaska at 54.5 N. lat., and probably ranges across the entire North Pacific sea floor below 1000 m.

The list is ordered alphabetically by family, then by Genus and species. The present list contains 11 families and 80 species of crabs that have been identified in Alaskan waters. Among these, 28 species are hermit crabs (Family Paguridae), 18 are stone crabs (Family Lithodidae, including king crabs), 14 are spider crabs (Family Majidae, including snow and Tanner crab), and 6 are pea crabs (Family Pinnotheridae). Perhaps more will be discovered in the near future. Latin names denoted with * are tentative identifications. All common names are those accepted and published by the AFS (1989), except for those species lacking common names (denoted with **), where a name was created by the source. Many of the common names, especially for hermit crabs, were codified by Kessler and subsequently accepted by AFS. # denotes a name commonly used by staff at our laboratory.

I encourage others to examine, revise, and add species to this list as they are identified, and I thank all those who have done so already.

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Family	Genus species	Common name	Source
Atelecyclidae	<i>Erimacrus isenbeckii</i>	hair crab	2
Atelecyclidae	<i>Telmessus cheiragonus</i>	helmet crab	5, 7
Cancridae	<i>Cancer gracilis</i>	graceful cancer crab	5, 7
Cancridae	<i>Cancer magister</i>	Dungeness crab	5, 7
Cancridae	<i>Cancer oregonensis</i>	pygmy cancer crab	5, 7
Cancridae	<i>Cancer productus</i>	red rock crab	9, 7
Chirostylidae	<i>Gastroptychus iaspis</i>	Seamount pinchbug**	8
Galatheididae	<i>Munidopsis albatrossae</i>	Albatross squat lobster**	8
Galatheididae	<i>Munida quadrispina</i>	pinch bug**	5
Grapsidae	<i>Hemigrapsus nudus</i>	purple shore crab	7
Grapsidae	<i>Hemigrapsus oregonensis</i>	yellow shore crab	7
Lithodidae	<i>Acantholithodes hispidus</i>	fuzzy crab**	5
Lithodidae	<i>Cryptolithodes sitchensis</i>	umbrella crab	7
Lithodidae	<i>Cryptolithodes typicus</i>	butterfly crab	3
Lithodidae	<i>Dermaturus mandti</i>	wrinkled crab**	4
Lithodidae	<i>Hapalogaster grebnitzkii</i>	soft crab**	5
Lithodidae	<i>Hapalogaster mertensii</i>	hairy crab	7
Lithodidae	<i>Lithodes aequispina</i>	golden king crab	5
Lithodidae	<i>Lithodes couesi</i>	scarlet king crab	5
Lithodidae	<i>Lopholithodes foraminatus</i>	brown box crab**	5, 3
Lithodidae	<i>Lopholithodes mandti</i>	box crab**	5, 3
Lithodidae	<i>Oedignathus inermis</i>	paxillose crab**	7
Lithodidae	<i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i>	red king crab	5
Lithodidae	<i>Paralithodes platypus</i>	blue king crab	5
Lithodidae	<i>Paralomis multispina</i>	spiny Paralomis**	8
Lithodidae	<i>Paralomis verillii</i>	Verill's Paralomis**	8
Lithodidae	<i>Phyllolithodes papillosus</i>	flatspine triangle crab	5
Lithodidae	<i>Placetron wosnessenski</i>	scaled crab	5
Lithodidae	<i>Rhinolithodes wosnessenski</i>	rhinoceros crab	5
Majidae	<i>Chionoecetes angulatus</i>	triangle Tanner crab	5
Majidae	<i>Chionoecetes bairdi</i>	Tanner crab	5
Majidae	<i>Chionoecetes opilio</i>	snow crab	5
Majidae	<i>Chionoecetes tanneri</i>	grooved Tanner crab	5
Majidae	<i>Chorilia longipes</i>	longhorn decorator crab	3
Majidae	<i>Hyas coarctatus</i>	Arctic lyre (toad) crab	5
Majidae	<i>Hyas lyratus</i>	Pacific Lyre crab	5
Majidae	<i>Macroregonia macrochira</i>	long clawed spider crab**	8
Majidae	<i>Mimulus foliatus</i>	foliate kelp crab	9, 7
Majidae	<i>Oregonia bifurca</i>	splitnose crab**	8
Majidae	<i>Oregonia gracilis</i>	graceful decorator crab	5
Majidae	<i>Pugettia gracilis</i>	graceful kelp crab	10, 7

Majidae	<i>Pugettia producta</i>	Northern kelp crab	7
Majidae	<i>Scyra acutifrons</i>	sharpnose crab	9, 7
Paguridae	<i>Discorsopagurus schmitti</i>	tubeworm hermit crab	4
Paguridae	<i>Elassochirus cavimanus</i>	purple hermit crab	5, 6
Paguridae	<i>Elassochirus gilli</i>	Pacific red hermit crab	5, 6, 9
Paguridae	<i>Elassochirus tenuimanus</i>	wide hand hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Labidochirus splendescens</i>	splendid hermit crab	5, 6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus aleuticus</i>	Aleutian hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus armatus</i>	armed hermit crab	5
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus beringanus</i>	Bering hermit	6, 7
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus brandti</i>	sponge hermit crab	5
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus capillatus</i>	"Dirty Harry" #	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus caurinus</i>	greenmark hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus confragosus</i>	knobbyhand hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus cornutus</i>	hornyhand hermit crab	5, 6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus dalli</i>	whiteknee hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus granosimanus</i>	grainyhand hermit	7
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus hemphilli</i>	maroon hermit crab	10
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus hirsutiusculus</i>	hairy hermit crab	6, 10
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus kennerleyi</i>	bluespine hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus mertensii</i>		6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus ochotensis</i>	Alaskan hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus rathbuni</i>	longfinger hermit crab	5, 6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus samuelis</i>	bluehand hermit	9
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus setosus</i>	setose hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus stevensae</i>	Stevens' hermit crab	6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus tanneri</i>	longhand hermit crab	5, 6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus townsendi</i>		6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus trigonocheirus</i>	fuzzy hermit crab	5, 6
Paguridae	<i>Pagurus undosus</i>	Pribilof hermit crab	5, 6
Pinnotheridae	<i>Fabia subquadrata</i>	grooved mussel crab	7
Pinnotheridae	<i>Pinnixia faba</i>	mantle pea crab	7
Pinnotheridae	<i>Pinnixia littoralis</i>	gaper pea crab	7
Pinnotheridae	<i>Pinnixia occidentalis</i>	Western pea crab	7
Pinnotheridae	<i>Pinnixia schmitti</i>	Schmitt pea crab	7
Pinnotheridae	<i>Pinnixia tubicula</i>	tube-dwelling pea crab	7
Porcellanidae	<i>Pachycheles rudis</i>	thickclaw porcelain crab	4
Porcellanidae	<i>Petrolisthes eriomerus</i>	flattop crab	7
Xanthidae	<i>Lophopanopeus bellus bellus</i>	blackclaw crestleg crab	7

Citation Numbers

1. (A.F.S., 1989)
2. (Armetta and Stevens, 1987)
3. (Barr and Barr, 1983)
4. (Jensen, 1995)
5. (Kessler, 1985)
6. (McLaughlin, 1974)
7. (O'Clair and O'Clair, 1998)
8. Stevens, Bradley G. NMFS, P. O. Box 1638, Kodiak Alaska, 99615. Personal identification.
9. (Suchanek, 1994)
10. (Zimmerman *et al.*, 1978)

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