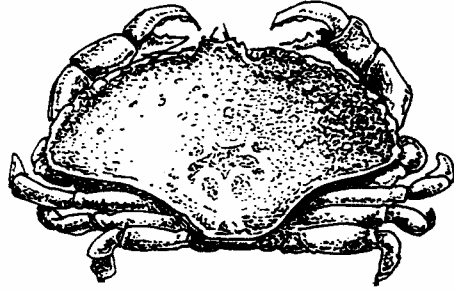


# Dungeness Crab

"Octopus says, "I just love the Dungeness Crab: for breakfast, lunch and dinner!"



**Scientific name:** *Cancer Magister*

**Phylum:** The Dungeness crab belongs to the phylum Arthropoda (jointed legs, exoskeleton). Subphylum: Crustacea (2 pair of antennae, gills, calcified exoskeleton).

**Size:** Up to 9 inches, measured in front of spines on carapace.

**Description:** The carapace is widest in front of last spine. Claws have white tips, serrated on upper margin. Color is grey-brown, sometimes more orange-brown, with purple on the claws and legs. Abdomen flap is wide in females, narrow in males.

**Habitat:** Saltwater, on sandy bottoms and in eelgrass beds. Low intertidal area to as deep as 750 feet.

**Diet:** Clams, smaller crustaceans and fish.

**Range:** Pribilof Islands in the north to Santa Barbara, California

**Relatives:** Crabs are decapods (10 legs), along with shrimp and lobsters.

**Conservation Status:** Predators are Octopi and humans. (YUM!)

**Fun Facts:** During the day, stays buried with only the eyes and antennae exposed. Molts on beaches, as often as 10 times the first year, but usually only once a year when adult. Empty crab molts litter the beaches and cause people to report many "dead" crabs. Moves by traveling left or right, never forward.