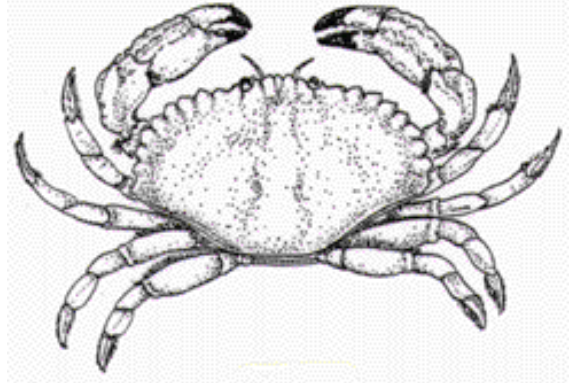


# Red Rock Crab



**Scientific name:** *Cancer productus*

**Other Names:** Red crab, red cancer crab

**Phylum:** Phylum Arthropoda → Subphylum Crustacea → Class Malacostraca → Subclass Eumalacostraca → Order Decapoda → Suborder Pleocymata → Infraorder Brachyura → Family Cancridae → Genus Cancer → Species productus

**Size:** Carapace up to 7" wide.

**Life Span:** 5-7 years.

**Habitat:** The Red Rock crab can be found in low intertidal zones and in water up to 260' deep. It often lives in gravelly bays, rocky areas and especially likes residing in places where eelgrass grows.

**Diet:** A carnivore, this crab uses its heavy, strong claws to crack open the shells of barnacles, bivalves such as mussels and clams, and snails. The Red Rock crab also opportunistically feeds on small living crabs and dead fish.

**Range:** Alaska to Baja California.

## **Fun Facts:**

- ☆ The Red Rock crab is mostly active at night.
- ☆ Mating occurs when the female is molting her carapace, the male protects her by covering her with his own body.
- ☆ These crabs are noted for their nasty pinch, which has been known to pinch right through neoprene gloves!
- ☆ Female Red Rock crabs use a lot of their energy on producing eggs, so they tend to grow much slower than males. This can often be noticed when crabbing for the Red Rock, as females are rarely found at the legal size for collection.
- ☆ You won't see the Red Rock crab living in muddy or sandy habitats, because unlike many crabs, the Red Rock lacks a strainer for their gills to prevent fine sediments from clogging up the gills.