

# Checklist of Alaskan Crabs

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Alaska has long been known for its crab fisheries. The king crab fishery is perhaps the most famous and valuable of these, pound for pound, although the snow crab fishery 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 the symposium, *Crabs in Cold Water Regions: Biology, Management, and Economics*, devoted to the study of crabs, and occurring in Alaska, it seemed appropriate to consider exactly what constitutes an "Alaskan crab."

The following checklist (Table 1) was assembled from a review of publications on intertidal and subtidal marine species in Alaskan waters, loosely defined as anything within 200 nautical miles of the Alaskan coastline, including islands. Species on the list have been documented to occur in Alaskan waters in a published reference. The exceptions are six species collected from Patton Seamount, and not yet published, but which probably also occur on seamounts and on the continental slope closer to shore. Among them, the long clawed spider crab (*Macroregonia macrochira*) has not previously been observed north of 49°N, but was found on Patton Seamount in the Gulf of Alaska at 54.5°N, and probably ranges across the entire North Pacific seafloor below 1,000 m.

The list (Table 1) 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 crabs), and 6 are pea crabs (family Pinnotheridae). The squat lobsters (family Galatheidae) and pinchbugs (family Chirostylidae) are included because they are anomurans, like the Paguridae and Lithodidae. Perhaps more will be discovered in the near future.

Latin names denoted with <sup>a</sup> are tentative identifications. The common names are those accepted and published by the American Fisheries Society

**Table 1. Checklist of Alaskan crabs.**

Scientific name	Common name	Source
<b>Atelecyclidae</b>		
<i>Erimacrus isenbeckii</i> (Brandt, 1848)	hair crab	2
<i>Telmessus cheiragonus</i> (Tilesius, 1815)	helmet crab	5, 7
<b>Cancridae</b>		
<i>Cancer gracilis</i> Dana, 1852	graceful rock crab	5, 7
<i>Cancer magister</i> Dana, 1852	Dungeness crab	5, 7
<i>Cancer oregonensis</i> (Dana, 1852)	pygmy rock crab	5, 7
<i>Cancer productus</i> Randall, 1839	red rock crab	7, 9
<b>Chirostylidae</b>		
<i>Chirostylus perarmatusa</i> Haig, 1968	Pacific red pinchbug <sup>b</sup>	8
<b>Galatheidae</b>		
<i>Munida quadrispina</i> Benedict, 1902	pinch bug <sup>b</sup>	5
<i>Munidopsis albatrossaea</i> Pequegnat & Pequegnat, 1973	Albatross squat lobster <sup>b</sup>	8
<b>Grapsidae</b>		
<i>Hemigrapsus nudus</i> (Dana, 1851)	purple shore crab	7
<i>Hemigrapsus oregonensis</i> (Dana, 1851)	yellow shore crab	7
<b>Lithodidae</b>		
<i>Acantholithodes hispidus</i> (Stimpson, 1860)	fuzzy crab <sup>b</sup>	5
<i>Cryptolithodes sitchensis</i> Brandt, 1853	umbrella crab	7
<i>Cryptolithodes typicus</i> Brandt, 1849	butterfly crab	3
<i>Dermaturus mandtii</i> Brandt, 1849	wrinkled crab <sup>b</sup>	4
<i>Hapalogaster grebnitzkii</i> Schalfew, 1892	soft crab <sup>b</sup>	5
<i>Hapalogaster mertensii</i> Brandt, 1849	hairy crab	7
<i>Lithodes aequispinus</i> (Benedict, 1895)	golden king crab	5
<i>Lithodes couesi</i> Benedict, 1895	scarlet king crab	5
<i>Lopholithodes foraminatus</i> (Stimpson, 1859)	brown box crab <sup>b</sup>	3, 5
<i>Lopholithodes mandtii</i> Brandt, 1849	box crab <sup>b</sup>	3, 5
<i>Oedignathus inermis</i> (Stimpson, 1860)	paxillose crab <sup>b</sup>	7
<i>Paralithodes camtschaticus</i> (Tilesius, 1815)	red king crab	5
<i>Paralithodes platypus</i> Brandt, 1850	blue king crab	5
<i>Paralomis multispinus</i> (Benedict, 1895)	spiny paralomis <sup>b</sup>	8
<i>Paralomis verrilli</i> (Benedict, 1895)	Verill's paralomis <sup>b</sup>	8
<i>Phyllolithodes papillosus</i> Brandt, 1849	flatspine triangle crab	5
<i>Placetron wosnessenskii</i> Schalfew, 1892	scaled crab	5
<i>Rhinolithodes wosnessenskii</i> Brandt, 1849	rhinoceros crab	5
<b>Majidae</b>		
<i>Chionoecetes angulatus</i> Rathbun, 1924	triangle Tanner crab	5
<i>Chionoecetes bairdi</i> Rathbun, 1924	Tanner crab	5
<i>Chionoecetes opilio</i> (Fabricius, 1788)	snow crab	5
<i>Chionoecetes tanneri</i> Rathbun, 1893	grooved Tanner crab	5
<i>Chorilia longipes</i> Dana, 1851	longhorn decorator crab	3
<i>Hyas coarctatus</i> Leach, 1815	Arctic lyre crab	5
<i>Hyas lyratus</i> Dana, 1815	Pacific lyre crab	5
<i>Macroregonia macrochira</i> Sakai T., 1978	long clawed spider crab <sup>b</sup>	8
<i>Mimulus foliatus</i> Stimpson, 1860	foliate kelp crab	7, 9

Scientific name	Common name	Source
<i>Oregonia bifurca</i> Rathbun, 1902	splitnose crab <sup>b</sup>	8
<i>Oregonia gracilis</i> Dana, 1851	graceful decorator crab	5
<i>Pugettia gracilis</i> Dana, 1851	graceful kelp crab	7, 10
<i>Pugettia producta</i> (Randall, 1839)	northern kelp crab	7
<i>Scyra acutifrons</i> Dana, 1851	sharpnose crab	7, 9
<b>Paguridae</b>		
<i>Discorsopagurus schmitti</i> (Stevens, 1925)	tubeworm hermit <sup>b</sup>	4
<i>Elassochirus cavimanus</i> (Miers, 1879)	purple hermit	5, 6
<i>Elassochirus gilli</i> (Benedict, 1892)	Pacific red hermit	5, 6, 9
<i>Elassochirus tenuimanus</i> (Dana, 1851)	widehand hermit <sup>d</sup>	6
<i>Labidochirus splendescens</i> (Owen, 1839)	splendid hermit	5, 6
<i>Pagurus aleuticus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	Aleutian hermit	6
<i>Pagurus armatus</i> (Dana, 1851)	armed hermit	5
<i>Pagurus beringanus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	Bering hermit <sup>b</sup>	6, 7
<i>Pagurus brandti</i> (Benedict, 1892)	sponge hermit	5
<i>Pagurus capillatus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	“Dirty Harry” <sup>c</sup>	6
<i>Pagurus caurinus</i> Hart, 1971	greenmark hermit	6
<i>Pagurus confragosus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	knobbyhand hermit	6
<i>Pagurus cornutus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	hornyhand hermit	5, 6
<i>Pagurus dalli</i> (Benedict, 1892)	whiteknee hermit	6
<i>Pagurus granosimanus</i> (Stimpson, 1859)	rainyhand hermit	7
<i>Pagurus hemphilli</i> (Benedict, 1892)	maroon hermit	10
<i>Pagurus hirsutiusculus</i> (Dana, 1851)	hairy hermit	6, 10
<i>Pagurus kennerleyi</i> (Stimpson, 1864)	bluespine hermit	6
<i>Pagurus mertensii</i> Brandt, 1851		6
<i>Pagurus ochotensis</i> Brandt, 1851	Alaskan hermit	6
<i>Pagurus rathbuni</i> (Benedict, 1892)	longfinger hermit	5, 6
<i>Pagurus samuelis</i> (Stimpson, 1857)	blueband hermit	9
<i>Pagurus setosus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	setose hermit	6
<i>Pagurus stevensae</i> Hart, 1971	Stevens hermit	6
<i>Pagurus tanneri</i> (Benedict, 1892)	longhand hermit	5, 6
<i>Pagurus townsendi</i> (Benedict, 1892)		6
<i>Pagurus trigonocheirus</i> (Stimpson, 1858)	fuzzy hermit	5, 6
<i>Pagurus undosus</i> (Benedict, 1892)	Pribilof hermit	5, 6
<b>Pinnotheridae</b>		
<i>Fabia subquadrata</i> Dana, 1851	grooved mussel crab	7
<i>Pinnixa faba</i> (Dana, 1851)	mantle pea crab	7
<i>Pinnixa littoralis</i> Holmes, 1894	gaper pea crab	7
<i>Pinnixa occidentalis</i> Rathbun, 1893	western pea crab <sup>b</sup>	7
<i>Pinnixa schmitti</i> Rathbun, 1918	Schmitt pea crab	7
<i>Pinnixa tubicola</i> Holmes, 1894	tube-dwelling pea crab <sup>b</sup>	7
<b>Porcellanidae</b>		
<i>Pachycheles rudis</i> Stimpson, 1859	thickclaw porcelain crab	4
<i>Petrolisthes eriomerus</i> Stimpson, 1871	flattop crab	7
<b>Xanthidae</b>		
<i>Lophopanopeus bellus</i> (Stimpson, 1860)	blackclaw crestleg crab	7

<sup>a</sup>Tentative identification.<sup>b</sup>Species lacking AFS common name; common name listed here was used by the source cited.<sup>c</sup>Name commonly used by staff at the NMFS Kodiak Fisheries Research Center laboratory.<sup>d</sup>Widehand is correct; name in ref. 1 is likely a typographic error.

[1], except for species lacking common names (denoted with <sup>b</sup>), where a name was created by the source cited. Many of the common names, especially for hermit crabs, were codified by Kessler [5] and subsequently accepted by the AFS. Names commonly used by staff at the NMFS Kodiak Fisheries Research Center laboratory are denoted by <sup>c</sup>.

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.

## References

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