Eriocheir sinensis

Chinese mitten crab

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
    - Could change structure of fresh/brackish water benthic invertebrate communities
    - Potential predation on salmonid/sturgeon eggs/juveniles
    - Burrowing crabs could accelerate erosion of banks & reduce levee stability
    - Damage commercial fishing nets, eat rice crops in China
    - Have clogged pumps, screens, intakes & damaged & killed fish at salvage facilities associated with water diversions
    - Intermediate host of lung fluke in Far East
2. Invasive potential
    - Utilizes the dispersion of planktonic larvae to colonize new areas
    - Spread quickly because they are able to walk over land to invade neighboring river systems
3. Geographic extent
    - Regionally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
    - Physical controls unsuccessful, species dispersal limits chemical controls
    - Bio-controls (fungi) hold promise, prevention legislation necessary

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: coastal rivers of China and estuaries of the Yellow Sea
2. Introduced: Washington, Oregon, California

- Habitats
    - Water courses, estuaries/bays, riparian zones, brackish water, wetlands
    - Catadromous, migrating downstream to reproduce in the brackish waters of estuaries, then juveniles settle in salt or brackish water in late spring, then migrate to freshwater to reproduce

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Natural spread - planktonic larvae
3. Stocking in open water - introduced as a food source
4. Ballast water and sediments

Non-Native Locations

1. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver
2. 58- Northern California

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment
3. http://zoology.fns.uniba.sk/poznavacka/images/27_Eriocheir_sinensis.jpg