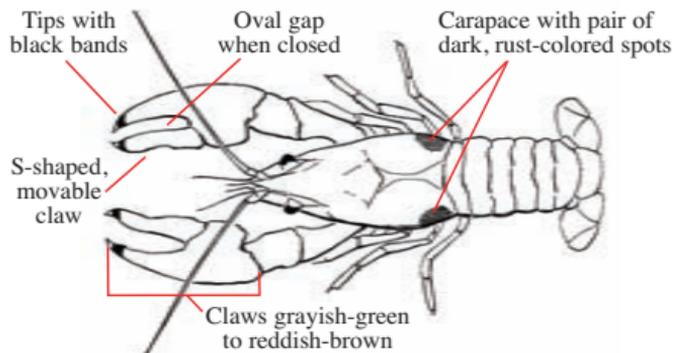


Rusty Crayfish WATCH

How to Identify Rusty Crayfish

(Use the following illustration as a guide; some characteristics may be absent.)



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent transport of aquatic invasive species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

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*Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant
Network and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

General Characteristics

- *Adults generally 3-5 inches (7.5-13 cm) long (nose to tail)*
- *Claws larger and smoother than many other crayfish; usually without wart-like white bumps*
- *Claws with oval gap when closed; no distinct thin slit or notch present*

Rusty Crayfish

Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) are invasive crustaceans spreading to lakes, rivers, and streams in several areas of North America. They are more aggressive than other native crayfish, better able to avoid fish predation, and can harm native fish populations by eating their eggs and young. They can displace native crayfish, hybridize with them, and graze on and eliminate aquatic plants.

Native to the Ohio River drainage, rusty crayfish have spread to several U.S. states and Ontario. They have likely spread through bait bucket release by anglers, aquarium release by hobbyists, activities of commercial harvesters, and live study specimen release by teachers and students who buy them from biological supply houses. Females can carry fertilized eggs or a male's sperm so even the release of a single female could establish a new population. Eradicating established infestations is impossible. Your actions and your help in reporting new infestations are vital for preventing their spread.

What you can do

- **Learn** to identify rusty crayfish (see back cover).
- **Inspect** and **remove** visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, motor, and trailer before transport.
- **Drain** lake or river water from bilge, livewell, and motor before leaving access.
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait, worms, and study specimens in the trash.
- **Rinse** boat & equipment with high pressure, hot water, **AND/OR**
- **Dry** everything for five days or more before reuse.
- **Never** dump live fish or crayfish from one body of water into another.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; place specimens in a sealed container with rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol; and call the WI Sea Grant Program in Manitowoc, (920) 683-4697; the WI DNR in Madison, (608) 266-6437; or a local DNR office; or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland, (715) 682-6185.

REMINDER: *Know the rules!*

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession and transport of invasive aquatic plants and animals. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of plants, fish, or invertebrates into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.