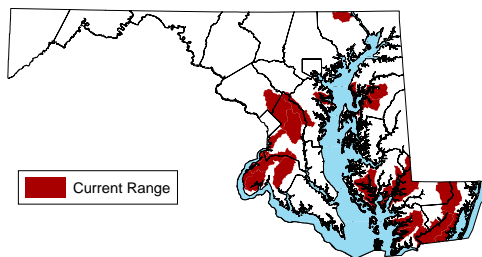


Red Swamp Crawfish

Procambarus clarkii

Identification Brown to bright red body with a dark black stripe on its tail; body and claws covered with tubercles giving it a rough appearance.

Why is it a Problem? This species is highly aggressive and competes with native species for food and habitat.



Range/Habitat Native to the southern U.S.; introduced in the Potomac, Patuxent, Chester, Pocomoke, and Nanticoke Rivers, as well as tributaries to Chincoteague Bay; favors sluggish streams, rivers, reservoirs, swamps, marshes, and seasonally flooded areas.

Similar Species Can be confused with the native White River Crawfish (*P. acutus*).

Legal Status Prohibited from being removed from the waters of one watershed and introduced into the waters of another watershed.

Method of Introduction Aquaculture of Red Swamp Crawfish in outdoor ponds has resulted in the introduction of this species in Maryland streams and rivers. Introductions have also likely resulted from the release of unwanted pets and unused bait.

Control and Prevention To help prevent the further spread of Red Swamp Crawfish: 1) Never release live, unused bait; 2) Do not transport live crayfish from one body of water to another; 3) Educate others about the problems of bait bucket introductions; 4) Learn how to identify Red Swamp Crawfish

Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.