Scylla serrata

Serrated swimming crab, Edible Mud crab, Mangrove crab, Indo-West Pacific Samoan crab

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
    - This is a prized, sought-after commercial species; impacts in Hawaii thus far unstudied, but the fact that it is a large, carniverous, and aggressive species eating native mollusks, crustaceans, and polychaetes, as well as small amounts of plants and debris (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
    - Brock (1960) attributed part of the success of the crab, in light of the relatively few individuals released, as being due in part to the fact that some of the estuarine areas where this species was released have a low rate of tidal flushing, a situation which may be conducive to the rapid growth of a population within the estuarine area. Enters estuaries of streams and ascending far up some of the larger rivers (Molnar 2008).
    - While most of the life cycle of S. serrata is spent in inshore waters, especially estuaries, the females migrate offshore with the fertilized eggs (up to about two million eggs at a time) attached to the pleopods, where they hatch in a few weeks (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
    - Locally patchy

Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Indo-Pacific, form South Africa to Tahiti, north to Okinawa, and south to Port Hacking, Australia and the Bay of Islands, New Zealand
2. First introduction: 1926
3. Intentional, to establish a commercial crab fishery. Crabs from Samoa released on Oahu, Molokai, and Hawaii. The Samoan crab was first introduced into Kaneohe Bay, in order to start a fishery in 1926.
4. Benthic, brackish water, coastland, estuaries/bays, mangroves
5. Inhabits muddy bottoms in brackish water along the shoreline, mangrove areas, and river mouths.

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in Open Water
    - Intentional known
    - Cause- establishment of crab fishery
    - Intentional, to establish a commercial crab fishery. Crabs from Samoa released on Oahu, Molokai, and Hawaii. The Samoan crab was first introduced into Kaneohe Bay, in order to start a fishery in 1926.

Non native locations

1. 70- Floridian
2. 152- Hawaiian Islands

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://www.reef.crc.org.au/research/fishing_fisheries/statusfisheries/images/Roger%20Swainston/MudCrabScylla_serrata.jpg