

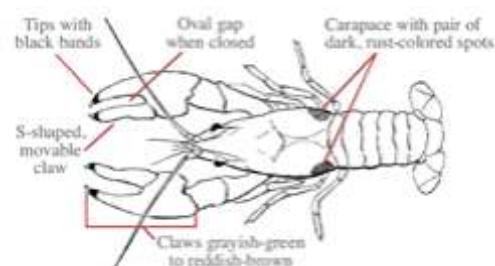
# Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

## Rusty Crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)

The rusty crayfish is an invasive crustacean that prefers bottom substrate of clay, silt or gravel with objects for protection such as logs and rocks. This is a very aggressive crayfish with a high tolerance for extreme water temperatures ranging from 0 degrees C to 39 degrees C. The rusty crayfish can damage an entire ecosystem. They compete with native crayfish for the same food and habitat sources, often causing a decline in the native species. This crayfish feeds primarily on vegetation diminishing crucial spawning habitat for native fish. A single female can create a new population with her ability to carry up to 200 fertilized eggs under her tail.

The rusty crayfish is native to the Ohio River Basin and has spread to many of the U.S. states and has also been introduced into Ontario. This aggressive invasive species is impossible to eradicate once introduced.

### Identification



- Size 7.3 to 13 centimetres from rostrum to tail
- Rust spots on each side
- Claws are a grayish green to reddish brown colour
- Claws tips have black bands
- Rostrum is pinched and concaved
- Looks similar to native crayfish but no native species will have black claw bands, rusty spots on its shell or a pinched rostrum

## How would rusty crayfish get here?

The rusty crayfish was likely first introduced by anglers throwing them into the water after using them as bait. This invasive species could also be found in pet stores and improper aquarium disposal can start the spread. Never dump your aquarium or aquarium species into a water system and never use invasive species as bait.

## What can I do to prevent the spread of rusty crayfish?

Clean, drain and dry your boat and equipment thoroughly before launching into a new area. Remove and dispose all vegetation, animals and mud into enclosed garbage cans.

Never use invasive species as bait or in your aquarium; always check with the sellers to be sure. Make others aware of this invasive animal and report any findings to the Saskatchewan TIP line.

# CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



### Current Saskatchewan Regulation

*The Fisheries Regulations prohibit Saskatchewan residents and visitors from importing, possessing, transporting or selling aquatic invasive species.*

### Report Sightings

Report any sightings to the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP line.

For a complete list of prohibited species, click [here](#)

### Need more information or have questions?

Call 1-800-567-4224 (in North America) or email [centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca).

[saskatchewan.ca/tip](http://saskatchewan.ca/tip)

TIP LINE: 1-800-667-7561

SaskTel Cell: #5555

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