

Crayfish of Michigan

- Michigan has eight native, and two invasive crayfish species.
- Crayfish are also known as crawdads, crawfish and mudbugs.
- They are freshwater crustaceans found in lakes, rivers and even burrows underground.
- Crayfish are important prey for many fish, birds and mammals.
- One of the major threats to our ecosystems is the introduction of invasive crayfish.
- Invasive crayfish are often spread when released from aquariums, bait buckets and seafood boils.

Photo credit: Bailey O'Brian



Great Plains Mudbug
Lacunicambarus nebrascensis



Paintedhand Mudbug
Lacunicambarus polychromatus



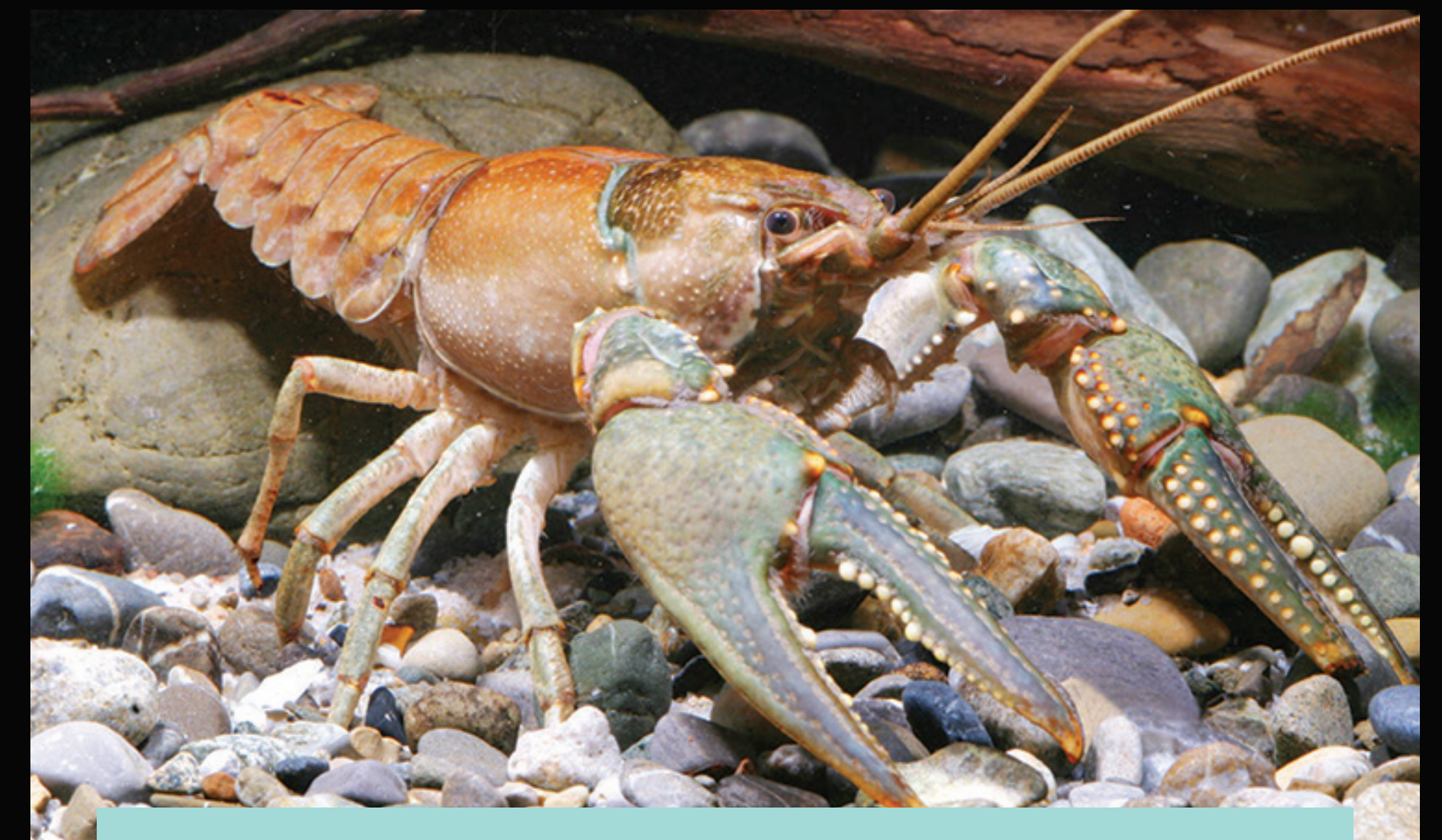
Digger Crayfish
Creaserinus fodiens



Calico Crayfish
Faxonius immunis



Northern Clearwater Crayfish
Faxonius propinquus



Virile Crayfish
Faxonius virilis



INVASIVE
Rusty Crayfish
Faxonis rusticus



Big Water Crayfish
Cambarus robustus



White River Crayfish
Procambarus acutus



INVASIVE
Red Swamp Crayfish
Procambarus clarkii



PROHIBITED
Marbled Crayfish
Procambarus virginalis
(not yet in Michigan)



PROHIBITED
Common Yabby Crayfish
Cherax destructor
(not yet in Michigan)

- Non-native crayfish are illegal as bait in Michigan.
- It is illegal to have live red swamp crayfish, common yabby crayfish, and marbled crayfish in Michigan.
- Rusty crayfish may be collected for personal use, but not commercially taken, possessed or sold.

To learn more about crayfish in Michigan, see the Field Guide to Michigan Crayfish at this QR code.



Photos courtesy: Chris Lukhaup