European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*): Fast ID/Anatomy

1. **Male:** Narrow, spear shaped abdomen (apron) - “Washington Monument”
2. **Female:** Rounded, broad shaped abdomen (apron) - “Capital Building”
3. **Molted Crab:** A newly molted crab will be very soft, leathery and very shiny. The color will vary from lemon yellow to bright green. The claws will be bright blue/purple with very distinct spots.

- Shell: oval shaped
- 5 ‘spines’ on either side of eyes
- 3 rostral bumps between the eyes
- Claws: not round
- Last pair of walking legs: flattened
- Color: green, brown, reddish, typically red/orange joints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Molted Crab</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrow, spear shaped abdomen</td>
<td>Rounded and broad shaped abdomen</td>
<td>Soft-shell, newly molted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old carapace/molt</td>
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3. Molted Crab: A newly molted crab will be very soft, leathery and very shiny. The color will vary from lemon yellow to bright green. The claws will be bright blue/purple with very distinct spots.
4. Green Crabs aren’t always green! Some are brown, dark green/brown, red or orange.

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