

Status of crayfish regulations as of October 1, 2025

Your state natural resource agency is the best place to find current regulatory information.



SPECIES	ILLINOIS	INDIANA	MICHIGAN	MINNESOTA	NEW YORK	OHIO	PENNSYLVANIA	WISCONSIN
Marbled crayfish <i>Procambarus virginalis</i>	✗	—	✗	✗	—	✗	✗	✗
Marron crayfish <i>Cherax tenuimanus</i>	★	—	★	★	—	✗	✗	✗
Red Swamp crayfish <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	★	—	✗	✗	—	✗	✗	✗
Rusty crayfish <i>Faxonius rusticus</i>	✗	—	⚠	⚠	✗	—	✗	⚠
Yabby crayfish <i>Cherax destructor</i>	✗	—	✗	✗	—	✗	✗	✗
Special considerations	DNR permit is needed to sell crayfish not specifically approved by the state.	All crayfish species are allowed.	Sellers of non-native aquatic species must register and report annually with DNR.	DNR permit is needed to import all live crayfish (native and non-native) or crayfish eggs.	—	All non-native crayfish species are prohibited.	All crayfish species are prohibited—native and non-native.	All non-native crayfish species are prohibited.

⚠ In many Great Lakes states, the rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*) is considered widespread and subject to special rules. Retailers generally cannot sell or possess them where they are non-native and restricted.

✗ Live possession is not allowed. Prohibited species are typically banned entirely, but state-specific exceptions may apply. Visit invasivecrayfish.org to find your state's regulations or contact your state's natural resources agency.

This table is provided as an informational summary only and should not be viewed as the entire regulation or statute, modifications of regulations or statutes, binding interpretations, or legal advice. For confirmation of regulations, contact the appropriate state or federal agency or consult with an attorney. This project was funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.