

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS FRESHWATER CRAYFISH?

The threat: Marron poses a significant threat to New Zealand's freshwater environment. It has the ability to become widespread in New Zealand's freshwater systems, competing with native species such as the freshwater crayfish (koura).

What is a marron?

Marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) is a large freshwater crayfish native to Western Australia. It poses a significant threat to New Zealand's freshwater environment and its inhabitants. Once established this species is very difficult to eradicate.

Marron were introduced to New Zealand to farm in the 1980s. Their risk to the environment was, however, later considered to be too great, and farming operations were shut down and all known marron eradicated. It is thought unknown populations may still exist.

What does marron look like?

- A freshwater crayfish.
- Large smooth front claws.
- Colour ranges from jet black to brown.
- Can grow to around 380mm long.

What looks similar?

The native freshwater crayfish (koura) appears similar but koura claws are hairy or spiny whereas marron claws are very smooth.

Where would I find a marron?

Marron prefer sandy areas in rivers and dams, particularly where organic matter accumulates. Marron like areas which have lots of different terrain (fallen trees, rocks), and do not like high salinity.

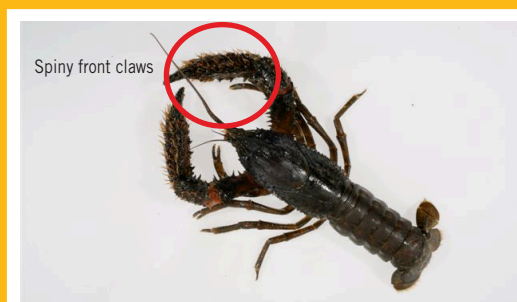
Unwanted and Notifiable

Marron is a notifiable and unwanted pest in New Zealand. As a notifiable organism, there is a duty to report sightings to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (see below). Its unwanted status means it is illegal to breed or move this species.

If you think you have seen a marron, note the location where you found it, take a photo, and if possible collect a sample and freeze it in a plastic bag. **CALL MAF BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND ON 0800 80 99 66**



MARRON (*CHERAX TENUIMANUS*)



NATIVE KOURA

Photo: John Hollows

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.BIOSECURITY.GOV.TZ/PESTS/MARRON