

# Spider Crabs

Image from [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



**Description:** Spider crabs have 10 long legs, including their pinchers, or claws which they use to catch prey and for defense. Spider Crabs have Spines and bumps covering the carapace, or body. Their body of a spider crab can grow up to 7 inches in males and 5 inches in females. Adult male spider crabs have bigger

claws and longer legs than females.

**Diet:** Spider crabs are carnivorous scavengers. They will eat anything on the ocean bottom, living or dead.

**Where they are Found:** These crabs can be found from Baja, CA to the south to Point Reyes, CA to the north anywhere from 20-500 feet deep.

**Defense:** Spider crabs have claws that they use to eat as well as to defend themselves. Their bodies are also covered with spines and bumps. A thin film of fuzzy green algae grows over the carapaces of adult spider crabs.

**WOW!!!** Spider crabs are also called sheep crabs. Female sheep crabs can store anywhere from 125,000 to 500,000 eggs at a time.