

List of the Crayfish species of North Carolina - printed 2025-04-04

This is a listing of the 51 species (48 native) that have been documented to occur in the freshwater systems of the state. The scientific and common names used in this list are from NatureServe Explorer and Cooper (2010). The list also includes the State Rank, Global Rank, State Status, and U.S. Status (if it has such statuses) for each species. The ranks are those of the Biotics database of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program and NatureServe, October 2016. State Status of Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern is assigned by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, whereas the NC NHP provides the Significantly Rare and Watch List status categories. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assigns the U.S. Status categories.

[Rank: State Global] [Status: State US] Range (by river basins)

Cambaridae: Freshwater Crayfishes [51]

1	<i>Cambarus acanthura</i>	Thornytail Crayfish	[S1 G4G5]	[SR]	HI
2	<i>Cambarus 'acuminatus'</i>	Acuminate Crayfish [a species complex]	[S5? G4Q]		BR,CA,CF,CH,LU,NS,RO,TP,YP
3	<i>Cambarus aldermanorum</i>	Carolina Needlenose Crayfish	[S1? GNR]	[W]	CA
4	<i>Cambarus asperimanus</i>	Mitten Crayfish	[S4 G4]		BR,CA,FB,LT,NW,SA,WA,YP
5	<i>Cambarus bartonii</i>	Appalachian Brook Crayfish	[S5 G5]		BR,CA,FB,HI,LT,NW,SA,WA,YP
6	<i>Cambarus brimleyorum</i>	Valley River Crayfish	[S2 G3G4]	[SR]	HI
7	<i>Cambarus burchfielae</i>	Falls Crayfish	[[S1?] GNR]		YP Newly described in 2023
8	<i>Cambarus carolinus</i>	Red Burrowing Crayfish	[S2 G4]	[W]	HI,LT
9	<i>Cambarus catagius</i>	Greensboro Burrowing Crayfish ..	[S1 G2]	[SC]	CF,YP
10	<i>Cambarus chasmodactylus</i> ...	New River Crayfish	[S4 G4]		NW
11	<i>Cambarus chaugaensis</i>	Chauga Crayfish	[S2 G2]	[SC]	SA
12	<i>Cambarus davidi</i>	Carolina Ladle Crayfish	[S3 G3]	[SR]	CF,NS,RO,TP
13	<i>Lacunicambarus diogenes</i> ...	Devil Crayfish	[S5 G5]		CF,CH,LU,NS,PA,RO,TP,WO,YP
14	<i>Cambarus dubius</i>	Upland Burrowing Crayfish	[S3? G5]		BR,CA,FB,NW,WA,YP
15	<i>Cambarus eeseehohensis</i>	Grandfather Mountain Crayfish ...	[S1 G1]	[SR]	CA
16	<i>Cambarus franklini</i>	South Mountains Crayfish	[S1S2 GNR]	[T]	CA
17	<i>Cambarus georgiae</i>	Little Tennessee Crayfish	[S2 G2G3]	[SC]	LT
18	<i>Cambarus hiwasseeensis</i>	Hiwassee Crayfish	[S3S4 G3G4]	[W]	HI
19	<i>Cambarus hobbsorum</i>	Rocky River Crayfish	[S3S4 G3G4]		CA,CF,NS,TP,YP
20	<i>Cambarus sp. cf. howardi</i>	a crayfish	[SU G3Q]		BR,CA,YP Originally considered as <i>C. howardi</i> , but that species does not occur in NC
21	<i>Cambarus hystricosus</i>	Sandhills Spiny Crayfish	[S2 G2]	[SR]	CF,LU
22	<i>Cambarus johni</i>	Carolina Foothills Crayfish	[S3 G3]	[SR]	BR,CA,YP
23	<i>Cambarus lapidosus</i>	Stony Fork Crayfish	[[S1?] GNR]		YP Newly described in 2023
24	<i>Cambarus latimanus</i>	Variable Crayfish	[S5 G5]		CF,HI,LU,NS,TP,WO
25	<i>Cambarus lenati</i>	Broad River Stream Crayfish	[S2 G2]	[SR]	BR
26	<i>Cambarus longirostris</i>	Longnose Crayfish	[S3S4 G5Q]		FB,LT,WA
27	<i>Cambarus longulus</i>	Atlantic Slope Crayfish	[S4 G5]		RO,YP
28	<i>Cambarus nodosus</i>	Knotty Burrowing Crayfish	[S1 G4]	[SR]	HI
29	<i>Cambarus parrishi</i>	Hiwassee Headwaters Crayfish ..	[S1 G2]	[SC]	HI
30	<i>Cambarus reburrus</i>	French Broad River Crayfish	[S2 G3]	[T]	FB,LT,SA
31	<i>Cambarus reduncus</i>	Sickle Crayfish	[S4? G4G5]		BR,CA,CF,NS,TP,YP
32	<i>Cambarus robustus</i>	Big Water Crayfish	[S4S5 G5]		FB,NW,WA
33	<i>Cambarus spicatus</i>	Broad River Spiny Crayfish	[S2 G3]	[T]	BR
34	<i>Cambarus tuckasegee</i>	Tuckasegee Stream Crayfish	[S1S2 G1G2]	[SR]	LT
35	<i>Cambarus sp. A</i>	a crayfish	[S2S4 G2G3]	[W]	HI,NW Also originally considered as <i>C. howardi</i> , but taxonomically distinct from it and from <i>C. sp. cf. howardi</i>
36	<i>Fallicambarus fodiens</i>	Digger Crayfish	[S5 G5]		CF,CH,LU,NS,PA,RO,TP,WO
37	<i>Faxonius carolinensis</i>	North Carolina Spiny Crayfish	[S3 G3]	[SC]	NS,TP
38	<i>Faxonius cristavarius</i>	Spiny Stream Crayfish	[S3 G5]		NW
39	<i>Faxonius erichsonianus</i>	Reticulate Crayfish	[S2? G5]		FB
40	<i>Faxonius forceps</i>	Surgeon Crayfish	[S2? G5]		FB
41	<i>Faxonius rusticus</i>	Rusty Crayfish	[SE G5]		BR,LT Not native
42	<i>Faxonius virginianensis</i>	Chowanoke Crayfish	[S3 G3]	[SC]	CH,RO
43	<i>Faxonius virilis</i>	Virile Crayfish	[SE G5]		CA,RO Not native
44	<i>Procambarus acutus</i>	White River Crayfish	[S5 G5]		CA,CF,CH,FB,LU,NS,PA,RO,TP,WA,WO,YP
45	<i>Procambarus ancylus</i>	Coastal Plain Crayfish	[S3 G4G5]	[W]	CF,LU
46	<i>Procambarus blandingii</i>	Santee Crayfish	[S3S4 G4]	[W]	LU
47	<i>Procambarus braswelli</i>	Waccamaw Crayfish	[S2 G3]	[E]	LU
48	<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	Red Swamp Crawfish	[SE G5]		BR,CA,CF,LU,NS,PA,RO,TP,WO,YP Not native
49	<i>Procambarus medialis</i>	Pamlico Crayfish	[S3 G3]	[T]	NS,TP

Cambaridae: Freshwater Crayfishes [51]

50	<i>Procambarus pearsei</i>	Carolina Sandhills Crayfish	[S1 G4]	[T]	CF,LU
51	<i>Procambarus plumimanus</i>	Croatan Crayfish	[S3S4 G4]		CF,WO

Species reported without documentation, reported falsely, or of dubious taxonomy

Cambarus howardi - Chattahoochee Crayfish - Found only in GA and AL; populations in NC are now considered as *Cambarus sp. cf. howardi*
Orconectes sp. 3 - Cheoah Crayfish - Recently considered to be an introduced population from the *Orconectes juvenilis* species complex

State Rank:

- S1 = Critically imperiled in the state
- S2 = Imperiled in the state
- S3 = Rare or uncommon in the state
- S4 = Apparently secure in the state
- S5 = Demonstrably secure in the state
- SE = Exotic/Introduced, presumed not native to the state
- SU = Undetermined - need more information on status and trends

Global Rank - Global ranks are similar to state ranks except "in the state" is replaced by "globally". Additional global ranks are:

- Q = questionable taxonomic assignment
- NR = not yet ranked

State Status:

- SC = Special Concern
- SR = Significantly Rare
- W = Watch List

U.S. Status:

- FSC = Federal Species of Concern

North Carolina River Basins:

- BR = Broad
- CA = Catawba
- CF = Cape Fear
- CH = Chowan
- FB = French Broad
- HI = Hiwassee
- LT = Little Tennessee
- LU = Lumber (includes Waccamaw subbasin)
- NS = Neuse
- NW = New
- PA = Pasquotank
- RO = Roanoke
- SA = Savannah
- TP = Tar--Pamlico
- WA = Watauga
- WO = White Oak
- YP = Yadkin--Pee Dee

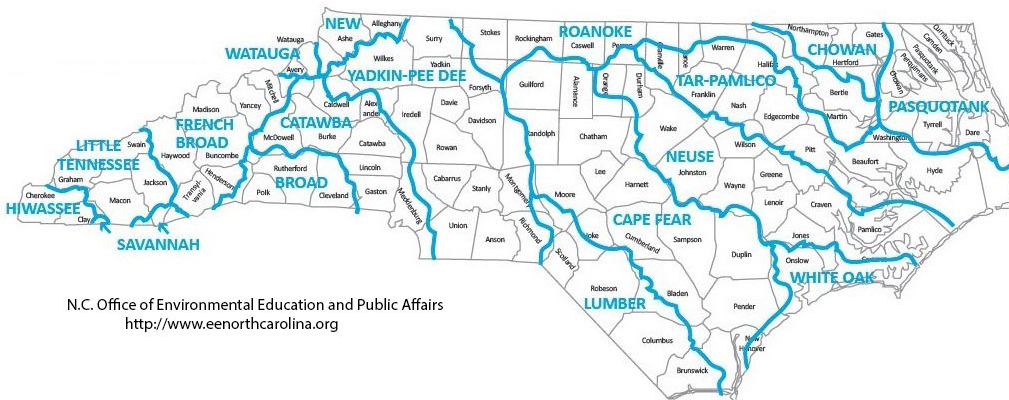
References:

Cooper, J.E. 2010. Annotated Checklist of the Crayfishes of North Carolina, and Correlations of Distributions with Hydrologic Units and Physiographic Provinces. *Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Science* 126(3): 69-76.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Crayfish (website). <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Crustaceans>

River Basins of North Carolina

Tennessee basins/drainages: New, Watauga, French Broad, Little Tennessee, and Hiwassee
 Atlantic basins/drainages: all other river basins



N.C. Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs
<http://www.eenorthcarolina.org>