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Effectiveness of utilizing eDNA to detect the presence of an invasive crab

It is common knowledge that all living things contain DNA. As any organism goes about its daily life some of this DNA is lost and is then becomes a part of the environment, we call this Environmental DNA (eDNA). *Rhithropanopeus harrisii*, the white-fingered mud crab, has invaded 10 reservoirs in the state of Texas over the last 40 years. We have limited knowledge of the spread of this crab into surrounding reservoirs and the detection of this crab is labor intensive. My project will test the effectiveness of eDNA in detecting the presence of an invasive crab in freshwater reservoirs.