

FIELD GUIDE

Marine Animals of the Rocky Intertidal Zone



Cnidaria (stinging animals)



Green anemone
(*Anthopleura anthogrammica*)
To 12 in (30 cm) in diameter
Green disc with tentacles



Agregating anemone
(*Anthopleura elegantissima*)
Averages 2 in (5 cm) in diameter. Green discs with pinkish-tipped tentacles

Arthropods (joint legged animals)



Acorn barnacles
(*Balanus glandula*)
To 3/4 in (1.8 cm) in diameter
White to gray



Thatched barnacle
(*Semibalanus cariosus*)
To 1 1/2 in (4 cm) in diameter
White to gray



Goose barnacle
(*Pollicipes polymerus*)
To 4 in (10 cm) long
Cream colored plates attached to dark brown gooseneck-like flexible stalks

Arthropods (continued)



Kelp isopods
(*Idotea wosnesenskii*)
To 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) long
Brown, green or red, often blending in with algae or rocks



Purple shore crab
(*Hemigrapsus nudus*)
Carapace to 2 in (5.6 cm) wide. Normally dark purple, but olive green or reddish brown animals are not uncommon



Dungeness crab
(*Cancer magister*)
Carapace to 8 in (20 cm) wide. Red-brown to purple shell, with spines on the front edge



Graceful Decorator crab
(*Origionia Gracilis*)
Carapace to 1 1/2 in (3.9 cm) wide. Often camouflaged; Attaches bits of kelp and sponges on its back



Hermit crab
(*Pagurus spp.*)
Shells to 1 in (2.5 cm) long. Moves to larger shells as it grows

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



Mollusks (soft bodied animals)



Checkedered periwinkles
(*Littorina scutulata*)
Shells to 5/8 in (1.6 cm) high
Often occupied by hermit crabs



**Emarginate dogwinkle
or rock whelk**
(*Nucella emarginata*)
Shells to 1 in (2.5 cm) high
Color varies, bands on shell



Pacific blue mussel
(*Mytilus trossulus*)
Shells to 4 1/2 in (11 cm) long,
generally much smaller
Color varies from blue or
brown to black



Clams
Size, color and shape vary by
species
Two-shells attached by a hinge
with two siphons



Limpets
Size and color vary by species
One-shelled, cone-shaped Mol-
lusks

Mollusks (continued)



Black Katy chiton
To 4 3/4 in (12.1 cm) long
Oval, flattened animals with eight
overlapping shell plates covered
by brown to black girdle



Sea lemon
(*Anisodoris nobilis*)
Usually to 4 in (10 cm) long, but
can get bigger
Yellow to orange body with small
black spots



Giant Pacific Octopus
(*Octopus dofleini*)
Arms spread to 24 ft (7.3 m)
across
Capable of changing color and
texture of skin

Echinoderms (spiny-skinned animals)



Purple or Ochre Star
(*Pisaster ochraceus*)
To 20 in (50 cm) across
Can be purple, orange or brown



Purple sea urchin
(*Stonglyocentrotus purpuratus*)
To 6 in (15 cm) across
Purple, spherical with spines

Beach Protector's Pledge

I will take care of beach life by touching gently, always walking carefully, and leaving animals where I found them.

I will share my knowledge of the beach with friends and family.

I will always do my best to protect the beach and the animals that live there.

TAKE ONLY LITTER

Fish



Tidepool sculpin
(*Oligocottus maculosus*)
To 3 1/2 in (8.9 cm) long
Gray to brown coloring

