





Port Hardy Invertebrate ID



Fishinar 8/27/2014, Janna Nichols – Instructor

Questions? Feel free to contact me at janna@reef.org


Arthropoda







	<p>Giant Barnacle - WAY bigger than your typical barnacle on the rocks on the beach. In fact this one's giant! Usually found in clusters in high current areas. If you wait and watch, you might see the feeding tentacles appear and move in and out, like a radar antenna. Empty shells make great homes for Sculpins and Pricklebacks. Often covered with sponges, hydroids and other growth, making them very camouflaged.</p>
	<p>*Puget Sound King Crab (not monitored by REEF) – Large and colorful crab, with shades of red, orange, yellow and purple. Four points on top of shell (carapace). Juveniles bright orange with obvious 4 points on shell. When disturbed by divers' bubbles, will leap off of walls and free fall to bottom.</p>

Cnidaria



	<p>Plumose Anemone - White and occasionally brown or orange. Can be several feet tall. Very frilly tentacles, looks like cauliflower.</p>
	<p>*Sea Strawberry Soft Coral (not monitored by REEF) – Found on walls, in branching clumps, reddish to pink in color.</p>

Echinodermata

	<p>California Sea Cucumber – Tan color, like Californians have. ☺ Lots of fake-out 'thorns' that look sharp, but are not. Feeding appendages around mouth mop up detritus (icky stuff sitting on the bottom) from the sea floor.</p>
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	<p>Orange Sea Cucumber – Often all you see are the feeding tentacles. There are 10 highly branched tentacles, with a long body that has 5 rows of tube feet down the length. Burrows into cracks between rocks.</p>
	<p>Sunflower Star – Size of garbage can lid, and can have up to 24 arms. Fastest mover of sea stars. Populations of this species (and other sea stars as well) have been dramatically reduced to almost nothing from Sea Star Wasting Syndrome that took place in 2013-2014</p>
	<p>Leather Star – Five arms, with bluish-gray-beige base color with orange patches. The patches feel like soft suede leather when touched.</p>
	<p>*Basket Star - (not monitored by REEF) – Likes areas of high current. Branching, curly arms. Can be seen with arms closed or open.</p>
	<p>*Blood Star - (not monitored by REEF) 5 thin arms, usually orangeish red in color. Doesn't seem to be affected by Seastar Wasting Syndrome so far.</p>
	<p>Red Sea Urchin – Can be red or purple, and all shades in between. Long spines.</p>

Mollusca

	<p>Opalescent Nudibranch - Very small nudibranch with 'antlers' and 'fur', and a yellow/blue line that runs down mid body.</p>
	<p>Giant Pacific Octopus - Rarely seen out in the open, it's more typical to just see suckers as you look under rocks. Look for the crab shell mess it leaves on its doorstep.</p>