



PNW Invertebrate ID







Fishinar 1/16/2014, Janna Nichols – Instructor



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

Stars and Squirts


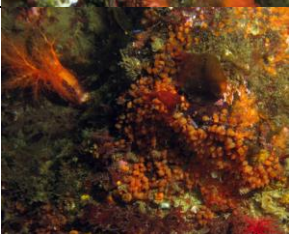




This session will concentrate on the Echinodermata and Urochordata phyla

Echinodermata

	<p>Leather Star - Five arms, with bluish-gray-beige base color, with orangish-red patches. The patches feel soft like suede leather when touched.</p>
	<p>Sunflower Star - Size of garbage can lid, can have up to about 24 arms. Fastest mover of the sea stars.</p>
	<p>Spiny Pink Star - Five very beefy arms, with raised center. Appears white until you shine your dive light on it, then you can see the pink.</p>
	<p>Orange Sea Cucumber - Often all you see are the feeding tentacles. 10 highly branched tentacles, with long body with 5 rows of tube feet down it. Burrows into cracks between rocks.</p>
	<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) from the sea floor.</p>
	<p>Red Sea Urchin - Can be red, or purple (and all shades in between). Long spines.</p>

	Green Sea Urchin - Cream to greenish-brown, with short spines.
	Eccentric Sand Dollar - "Eccentric" not because it's weird, but because the 5 petal shapes are not CONcentric like other sand dollars. White base with black short furry spines.

Urochordata

	Shiny Orange Sea Squirt - It's shiny, it's orange, it lives in the sea, and it squirts water out of one of its siphons. Close up and shrink down in reaction to approaching divers.
	Orange Social Ascidian - If you've seen one, you've seen a bunch, because they're so social. This one you'll just mark 'Present' on your survey form. Typically found on the sides of rock reefs, clustered very closely together. They are very small.
Urochordata	Invasive Tunicates
	Club Tunicate - A large, rounded, elongated dome with small bumps. In shades of brown to reddish, to cream colors.
	 Invasive Didemnum Tunicate - Look for small holes, with channels leading from them to larger holes. "Drips" form around those larger holes, and more mature colonies of this tunicate are very drippy in appearance.
	Transparent Ciona Savignyi - Clear long tubes, with yellow specks around siphon. Scalloped edges to siphons. Also light yellow to cream flecks on body. Retract when touched.