

Southern NZ

ROCKY SHORE GUIDE

A handy guide to the common animals and plants living on the rocky seashores of southern New Zealand.



This guide illustrates only some of the more common seashore animals and plants. Visit our website for a comprehensive list, Māori names and information about their ecology.

ANEMONES

- Tide Pool Anemone *Anthopleura aureoradiata* 30mm
- Red Beadlet Anemone *Actinia tenebrosa* 40mm
- Jewel Anemone *Corynactis australis* 10mm
- White Striped Anemone *Actinotea albocincta* 10mm
- Olive Anemone *Pulsillona affinis* 25mm

SPONGES

- Encrusting Sponge *Halicladium* sp.
- Golf Ball Sponge *Tethya bergquistae* 40mm
- Sandhopper Amphipods 5-10mm
- Sea Slater Isopods 10mm
- Sea Centipede / Isopod *Idotea stricta* 20-30mm
- Glass Shrimp *Palaemon affinis* 65mm

SHRIMPS & RELATIVES

CRABS

- Smooth Shore Crab *Cyclograpsus lavauxi* 28mm
- Half Crab *Petrolisthes elongatus* 10mm
- Pill Box Crab *Halicarcinus inornatus* 19mm
- Common Shore Crab *Hemigrapsus sedentatus* 57mm
- Hermit Crab *Pagurus* sp. 10mm
- Hairy Handed Crab *Hemigrapsus crenulatus* 40mm
- Camouflage Crab *Notamithrax* sp. 42mm

BIVALVES

- Green Shelled Mussel *Perna canaliculus* 150mm
- Ribbed Mussel *Aulacomya maoriana* 80mm
- Blue Mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis* 120mm

BRACHIOPOD

- Little Black Mussels *Limnoperna pulex* 30mm
- Rock Oysters *Ostrea chilensis* 100mm
- Lampshells *Calloria inconspicua* 20mm

SNAILS

- Blue-banded Periwinkles *Austrolittorina antipodum* 8mm
- Brown Periwinkles *Austrolittorina cincta* 16mm
- Horn Shell *Zeacumantus subcarinatus* 16mm
- White Whelk *Haustrum lacunosum* 35mm
- Oyster Borer *Houstrum scabina* 35mm
- Cat's Eye Snail *Lunella smaragdus* 70mm
- Spotted Top Shell *Diloma* sp. 28mm
- Black Top Shell *Diloma nigerrima* 26mm
- Lined Whelk *Buccinum linea* 25mm

PAUA / SEA SLUGS

- Warty Nudibranch *Doris wellingtonensis* 200mm
- Lemon Nudibranch *Dendrodoris citrina* 75mm
- Virgin Paua *Haliotis virginea* 50mm
- Yellow Foot / Silver Paua *Haliotis australis* 85mm
- Black Foot Paua *Haliotis iris* 250mm

BARNACLES

- Gooseneck Barnacle *Calantica spinosa* 40mm
- Plicate Barnacle *Epapella plicata* 10mm
- Beaked Barnacle *Eminus modestus* 3mm
- Columnar Barnacle *Chamaesipho columna* 9mm

WORMS

- Red Tube Worm *Galeolaria hystrix* 50mm
- Blue Tube Worm *Spirobranchus cariniferus* 50mm
- Rag Worm Family: Nereididae 150mm
- Spiral Tube Worms Family: Serpulidae 3mm
- Flat Worm *Anonymous kalkourensis* 50mm

SEA STARS

- Three and Three Star *Allostichaster insignis* 150mm
- Spiry Sea Star *Coscinasterias muricata* 150mm
- Cushion Star *Patriella* sp. 70mm
- Seven Armed Sea Star *Astrostele scabra* 360mm
- Reef Star *Stichaster australis* 300mm
- Brittle Star *Ophiomyza brevirima* 50mm

CHITONS

- Hairy Chiton *Acanthochiton zelandica* 50mm
- Green Chiton *Chiton glaucus* 50mm
- Brown Chiton *Ischnochiton maorianus* 50mm
- Snakeskin Chiton *Sypharochiton pelliserpentis* 50mm
- Butterfly Chiton *Cryptochiton porosus* 75mm

LIMPETS

- Ornate Limpet *Celana ornata* 50mm
- Radiate Limpet *Celana radiata* 50mm
- Striated Limpet *Celana striatulus* 80mm
- Common Pulmonate Limpet *Siphonaria australis* 25mm

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BRYOZOANS

- Seaweed Encrusting Bryozoan *Membranopora membranacea*
- Rock Encrusting Bryozoan
- Flexible Bryozoans *Elerania biederi* 20mm

SEA SQUIRTS

- Colonial Ascidians *Didemnum* sp.
- Colonial Ascidians *Botrylloides* sp.
- Colonial Ascidians *Distaplia* sp.
- Solitary Ascidians *Asterocarpa* sp. 40mm
- Sea Tulip *Pyura pachydermatina* 400mm

FISH

- Olive Rock Fish *Acanthocheilichthys fuscus* 300mm
- Common Triplefin *Forsterygion* sp. 50-110mm
- Clingfish *Gastrophysus tectoris* 90mm

GREEN SEAWEEDS

- Intestine Weed *Ulva intestinalis* 150mm
- Sea Lettuce *Ulva* sp. 300mm
- Sea Emerald *Chaetomorpha calliformis* 20mm
- Encrusting Velvet Weed *Codium convolutum* 200mm
- Branching Velvet Weed *Codium fragile* 300mm
- Sea Rimu *Caulerpa brownii* 300mm

BROWN SEAWEEDS

- Scytosiphon *lomentaria* 300mm
- Neptunes Necklace *Hormosira banksii* 500mm
- Zig-zag Weed *Cystophora* sp. 1.5m
- Strap Weed *Xiphophora gladiata* 500mm
- Flap Jack or Sea Wrack *Carpophyllum maschalocarpum* 1.5m

RED SEAWEEDS

- Sea Sack *Adenocystis utricularis* 90mm
- Filamentous Brown Weed *Ectocarpus* sp. 100mm
- Bull Kelp *Durvillaea antarctica* 3-10m
- Wakame *Undaria pinnatifida* 1m
- Bladder Kelp *Macrocystis pyrifera* 30m
- Gummy Weed *Splachnidium rugosum* 200mm
- Erect Coralline Algae *Arthrocardia corymbosa* 120mm
- Karengo *Porphyra* sp. 300mm

SHOW RESPECT FOR SEASHORE CREATURES



- Tread carefully.
- Leave creatures where you found them.
- Leave attached seaweed in place.
- Handle creatures with care - close to the ground with wet hands.
- Carefully put rocks back to the same position you found them.
- Limit your collection of empty shells as other creatures use them as homes.

BE CAREFUL AND KEEP SAFE



- Check tide times to avoid being cut off by rising tide.
- Do not explore the seashore alone.
- Watch for changing weather.
- Look out for waves - never turn your back to the ocean.
- Beware of slippery and uneven rock surfaces.
- Pick up any rubbish found on the shore and dispose of it appropriately.

AVOID DISTURBING WILDLIFE



- Keep your distance from seabirds including penguins.
- Keep your distance from seals and sea lions.
- Use the zoom on your camera or binoculars for close viewing.
- If sea lions approach you - back away slowly.
- Keep dogs under control.



The NZ Marine Studies Centre provides expert knowledge and education about New Zealand's marine environment. The Centre and Aquarium (Portobello, Dunedin) are open daily and have live displays of New Zealand's marine species and exhibits about conservation and research.

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