

Intertidal Organisms of Point Reyes National Seashore

[PORIFERA: sea sponges.](#)

[CRUSTACEANS: barnacles, shrimp, crabs, and allies.](#)

[CNIDERIANS: sea anemones and allies.](#)

[MOLLUSKS : abalones, limpets, snails, clams, nudibranchs, chitons, and octopi.](#)

[BRYOZOANS: moss animals.](#)

[MARINE WORMS: flatworms, ribbon worms, peanut worms, segmented worms.](#)

[ECHINODERMS: sea stars, sea cucumbers, brittle stars, sea urchins.](#)

[UROCHORDATES: tunicates.](#)

Pylum or Subphylum	Genus/Species	Common Name
Porifera	<i>Prosuberites</i> spp.	Cork sponge
	<i>Leucosolenia eleanor</i>	Calcareous sponge
	<i>Leucilla nuttingi</i>	Little white sponge
	<i>Aplysilla glacialis</i>	Karatose sponge
	<i>Lissodendoryx</i> spp.	Skunk sponge
	<i>Ophlitaspongia pennata</i>	Red star sponge
	<i>Haliclona</i> spp.	Purple haliclona
	<i>Leuconia heathi</i>	Sharp-spined leuconia
	<i>Cliona celata</i>	Yellow-boring sponge
	<i>Plocarnia karykina</i>	Red encrusting sponge
	<i>Hymeniacion</i> spp.	Yellow nipple sponge
	<i>Polymastia pachymastia</i>	Polymastia

Cnidarians	<i>Tubularia marina</i>	Tubularia hydroid
	<i>Garveia annulata</i>	Orange-colored hydroid
	<i>Ovelia</i> spp.	Obelia
	<i>Sertularia</i> spp.	Sertularia
	<i>Abietinaria greenii</i>	Green's bushy hydroid
	<i>Aglaophenia struthionides</i>	Giant ostrich-plume hydroid
	<i>Aglaophenia latirostris</i>	Dainty ostrich-plume hydroid
	<i>Plumularia</i> spp.	Plumularia
	<i>Pleurobrachia bachei</i>	Cat's eye
	<i>Polyorchis</i> spp.	Bell-shaped jellyfish
	<i>Chrysaora melanaster</i>	Striped jellyfish
	<i>Veleva veleva</i>	By-the-wind-sailor
	<i>Aurelia auria</i>	Moon jelly
	<i>Epiactus prolifera</i>	Proliferating anemone
	<i>Anthopleura xanthogrammica</i>	Giant green anemone
	<i>Anthopleura artemissia</i>	Aggregated anemone
	<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i>	Burrowing anemone
	<i>Tealia lofotensis</i>	Big red anemone
	<i>Metridium senile</i>	Plumose anemone

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Pylum or Subphylum	Genus/Species	Common Name
Cnidarians cont.	<i>Corynactus californica</i>	Small red anemone
	<i>Balanophyllia elegans</i>	Solitary coral anemone

Bryozoans	Several genera are common in the intertidal.
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Echinoderms	<i>Dermasterias imbricata</i>	Leather star
	<i>Asterina miniata</i>	Bat star
	<i>Henricia leviuscula</i>	Red sea star
	<i>Solaster dawsoni</i>	Dawson's sun star
	<i>Leptasterias hexactis</i>	Six-rayed star
	<i>Leptasterias pusilla</i>	Little six-rayed star
	<i>Pisaster ochraceous</i>	Ochre star
	<i>Pisaster brevispinus</i>	Short spined sea star
	<i>Pisaster giganteus</i>	Knobby star
	<i>Pycnopodia helianthoides</i>	Sunflower star
	<i>Cucumaria miniata</i>	Red sea cucumber
	<i>Eupentacta quinquesemita</i>	White sea cucumber
	<i>Parastichopus californicus</i>	Large sea cucumber
	<i>Leptosynapta albicans</i>	Synaptid sea cucumber
	<i>Ophiopholis aculeata</i>	Daisy brittle star
	<i>Amphipholis pugetana</i>	Little brittle star
	<i>Amphiodia occidentalis</i>	Western brittle star
	<i>Ophiothrix spiculata</i>	Spiny brittle star
	<i>Strongylocentrotus pupuratus</i>	Purple sea urchin
	<i>Strongylocentrotus franciscanus</i>	Red sea urchin
	<i>Dendraster excentricus</i>	Sand dollar

Urochordates	Commonly encountered genera include <i>Ascidia</i> , <i>Clavelina</i> , <i>Ciona</i> , and <i>Styela</i> .
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Crustaceans	<i>Pollicipes polymerus</i>	Gooseneck barnacles	
	<i>Balanus glandula</i>	Acorn barnacle	
	<i>Balanus crenatus</i>	Subtidal acorn barnacle	
	<i>Balanus cariosus</i>	Thatched barnacle	
	<i>Balanus nubilus</i>	Great barnacle	
	<i>Ligia occidentalis</i>	Rock louse	
	<i>Idothea resecata</i>	Isopod	
	<i>Orchestoidea californiana</i>	Beach hopper	
	<i>Caprella</i> spp.	Skeleton shrimp	
	<i>Metacaprella kennerlyi</i>	Skeleton shrimp	
	<i>Betaeus</i> spp.	Eye-shaded shrimp	
	<i>Hapalogaster cavicatuda</i>	Hairy crab	
	<i>Paraxanthias taylori</i>	Pebble crab	
	<i>Tigriopus californicus</i>	Red copepod	
	<i>Clausidium vancouverense</i>	Red copepod	
	<i>Mytilicola orientalis</i>	Parasitic copepod	
	continued on next page	<i>Spirontocarius prionota</i>	Broken-back shrimp

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Pylum or Subphylum	Genus/Species	Common Name
Crustaceans cont.	<i>Crangon</i> spp.	Bay shrimp
	<i>Upogebia pugettensis</i>	Blue ghost shrimp
	<i>Callinassa californiensis</i>	Bay ghost shrimp
	<i>Blepharipoda occidentalis</i>	Spiny mole crab
	<i>Emerita analoga</i>	Mole crab
	<i>Hapalogaster cavicuda</i>	Stone crab
	<i>Cryptolithodes sitchenis</i>	Turtle crab
	<i>Pagurus</i> spp.	Hermit crab
	<i>Pleuroncodes planipes</i>	Pelagic red crab
	<i>Petrolisthes cinctipes</i>	Flat porcelain crab
	<i>Pachycheles pubescens</i>	Porcelain crab
	<i>Pachycheles rudis</i>	Thick-clawed crab
	<i>Pugettia</i> spp.	Kelp crabs
	<i>Mimulus foliatus</i>	Encrusting crab
	<i>Scyra acutifrons</i>	Sharp-nosed crab
	<i>Loxorhynchus crispatus</i>	Masking crab
	<i>Cancer antennarius</i>	Rock crab
	<i>Cancer magister</i>	Dungeness crab
	<i>Cancer productus</i>	Red crab
	<i>Fabia subquadrata</i>	Pea crab
	<i>Pinnixa</i> spp.	Pea crabs
	<i>Scleroplax granulata</i>	Pea crab
	<i>Pachygrapsus crassipes</i>	Lined shore crab
<i>Hemigrapsus nudus</i>	Purple shore crab	
<i>Pycnogonum stearnsi</i>	Sea spider	

Mollusks	<i>Haliotis refescens</i>	Red abalone
	<i>Haliotis cracherodii</i>	Black abalone
	<i>Haliotis walallensis</i>	Flat abalone
	<i>Haliotis kamtschatkana</i>	Pinto abalone
	<i>Fissurella volcano</i>	Keyhole limpet
	<i>Megaterbennus bimaculatus</i>	Two-spotted keyhole limpet
	<i>Diodora arnoldi</i>	Keyhole limpet
	<i>Dodora aspera</i>	Rough keyhole limpet
	<i>Acmaea mitra</i>	Dunce cap limpet
	<i>Acmaea palaecea</i>	Chaffy limpet
	<i>Collisella digitalis</i>	Ribbed limpet
	<i>Collisella scabra</i>	Rough limpet
	<i>Collisella limatula</i>	File limpet
	<i>Collisella pelta</i>	Shield limpet
	<i>Notoacmea insessa</i>	Seaweed limpet
	<i>Notoacmea paleacea</i>	Surfgrass limpet
	<i>Notoacmea scutum</i>	Plate limpet
	<i>Lottia gigantea</i>	Owl limpet
	<i>Calliostoma</i> spp.	Top snails
	continued on next page	<i>Tegula brunnea</i>

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Phylum or Subphylum	Genus/Species	Common Name
Mollusks cont.	<i>Tegula fenebralis</i>	Black turban snails
	<i>Littorina</i> spp.	Periwinkles
	<i>Littorina planaxis</i>	Eroded periwinkle
	<i>Cerithidea californica</i>	California horn snail
	<i>Batillaria zonalis</i>	Horn snail
	<i>Crepidula adunca</i>	Hooked slipper snail
	<i>Polinices lewisii</i>	Giant moon snail
	<i>Ceratostoma foliatum</i>	Leafy hornmouth
	<i>Urosalpinx cinerea</i>	Atlantic oyster drill
	<i>Ocenebra japonica</i>	Japanese oyster drill
	<i>Acanthina spirata</i>	Unicorn whelk
	<i>Nucella canaliculata</i>	Channeled dog whelk
	<i>Nucella emarginata</i>	Emarginated dog whelk
	<i>Nucella lamellosa</i>	Wrinkled dog whelk
	<i>Searlesia dira</i>	Dire whelk
	<i>Amphissa columbiana</i>	Wrinkled dove snail
	<i>Nassarius obsoletus</i>	Dog whelk
	<i>Nassarius fossatus</i>	Channeled nassa
	<i>Nassarius cooperi</i>	Cooper's lean nassa
	<i>Olivella biplicata</i>	Purple olive
	<i>Aplysia californica</i>	Brown sea hare
	<i>Phyllaplysia taylori</i>	Taylor's sea hare
	<i>Pleurobranchaea bachei</i>	Pleurobranchaea
	<i>Cadlina</i> spp.	Cadlina
	<i>Hallaxa chani</i>	Chan's nudibranch
	<i>Rostanga pulchra</i>	Scarlet nudibranch
	<i>Archidoris montereyensis</i>	Monterey dorid
	<i>Anisodoris nobilis</i>	Sea lemon
	<i>Diaulula sandiegensis</i>	Ring-spotted dorid
	<i>Hopkinsia rosacea</i>	Hopkin's rose
	<i>Acanthodoris nanaimoensis</i>	Wine-plume dorid
	<i>Triopha maculata</i>	Spotted triopha
	<i>Triopha catalinae</i>	Sea clown nudibranch
	<i>Melibe leonina</i>	Melibe
	<i>Antiopella barbarensis</i>	Cockscomb nudibranch
	<i>Dirona albolineata</i>	Chalk-lined nudibranch
	<i>Dirona picta</i>	Spotted dirona
	<i>Coryphella trilineata</i>	Three-lined nudibranch
	<i>Fighting phidiana</i>	Fighting phidiana
	<i>Hermisenda crassicornis</i>	Hermisenda
<i>Aeolidia papillosa</i>	Shag-rug nudibranch	
<i>Trimusculus reticulatus</i>	Reticulate button snail	
<i>ColSELLa senhousii</i>	Horse mussel	
<i>Mytilus californianus</i>	California mussel	
<i>Mytilus edulis</i>	Bay mussel	
<i>Ostrea lurida</i>	Olympia oyster	

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Pylum or Subphylum	Genus/Species	Common Name
Mollusks cont.	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	Japanese oyster
	<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>	Eastern oyster
	<i>Pododesmus cepio</i>	Abalone jingle
	<i>Hinnites giganteus</i>	Rock scallop
	<i>Clinocardium nuttalli</i>	Heart cockle
	<i>Gemma gemma</i>	Gem clam
	<i>Saxidomus nuttalli</i>	Washington clam
	<i>Protothaca staminea</i>	Littleneck clam
	<i>Protothaca semidecussata</i>	Japanese littleneck
	<i>Tresus nuttalli</i>	Horseneck clam
	<i>Macoma nasuta</i>	Bent-nosed clam
	<i>Macoma secta</i>	White sand clam
	<i>Nuttallia nuttalli</i>	Purple clam
	<i>Siliqua patula</i>	Pacific razor clam
	<i>Hiatella arctica</i>	Little gaper
	<i>Panopea generosa</i>	Geoduck clam
	<i>Penitella penita</i>	Flat-tipped piddock
	<i>Lepidozona mertensii</i>	Merten's chiton
	<i>Tonicella lineata</i>	Lined chiton
	<i>Nuttalina californica</i>	Nuttall's chiton
	<i>Mopalia muscosa</i>	Mossy chiton
	<i>Mopalia ciliata</i>	Mossy chiton
	<i>Mopalia lignosa</i>	Mossy chiton
	<i>Placiphorella velata</i>	Veiled chiton
	<i>Katharina tunicata</i>	Leather chiton
	<i>Cryptochiton stelleri</i>	Gumboot chiton
	<i>Loligo opalescens</i>	Common squid
	<i>Octopus rubescens</i>	Red octopus
<i>Octopus dofleini</i>	Giant octopus	

Marine Worms	<i>Arctonoe fragilis</i>	Scale worm	
	<i>Arabella seminaculata</i>	Arabella	
	<i>Axiiothella rubrocinta</i>	Red joint worm	
	<i>Dodecaceria spp.</i>	Cirratulid worm	
	<i>Euzonius mucronata</i>	Red blood worm	
	<i>Eudistylia polymorpha</i>	Plume worm	
	<i>Glycera americana</i>	Glycerid worm	
	<i>Halosydna brevisetosa</i>	Scale worm	
	<i>Harmothoe imbricata</i>	Scale worm	
	<i>Hesperonoe complanta</i>	Scale worm	
	<i>Hoploplana californica</i>	Flatworm	
	<i>Leptoplana chloranota</i>	Flatworm	
	<i>Micrura verrilli</i>	Ribbon worm	
	<i>Neanthes brandti</i>	Big nereid worm	
	<i>Nephtys caecoides</i>	Nephtys	
	continued on next page	<i>Nereis spp.</i>	Nereid tube worm

Phylum or Subphylum	Genus/Species	Common Name
Marine Worms cont.	<i>Notoplana</i> spp.	Flatworm
	<i>Oregonioplana opisthopora</i>	Flatworm
	<i>Paranemertes peregrina</i>	Ribbon worm
	<i>Phascolosoma agassizii</i>	Sipunculid worm
	<i>Phoronopsis viridis</i>	Green-plumed worm
	<i>Platynereis agassizii</i>	Flat nereid worm
	<i>Pisa pacifica</i>	Polychaete
	<i>Sebella media</i>	Feather-duster worm
	<i>Serpula vermicularis</i>	Serpulid polchaete
	<i>Sipunculus nudus</i>	Sipunculid worm
	<i>Themiste pyroides</i>	Sipunculid worm
	<i>Tubulanus polymorphus</i>	Ribbon worm
	<i>Thelepus crispus</i>	Sand-tube polychaete
	<i>Urechis caupo</i>	Fat innkeeper worm

This list is for educational purposes only.

Last updated 8/29/2007. Changes will be made as we discover new information about intertidal species. Check our web site periodically for updated lists.