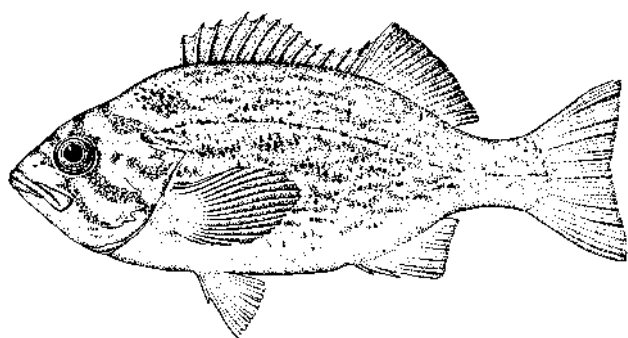


**Bat star**

**Bat star**

*Asterina miniata* [size: to 8 in. (20 cm)]

Bat stars live on the kelp forest floor. They eat seaweeds and small animals, and scavenge dead animals on the bottom. A bat star's stomach comes out of its mouth and covers its food to eat. The stomach can feel around on the seafloor for bits of food.



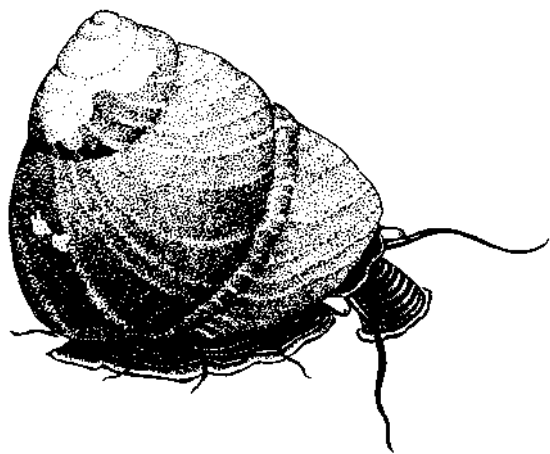
**Blue rockfish**

**Blue rockfish**

*Sebastes mystinus* [size: to 21 in. (53 cm)]

Schools of blue rockfish swim among the kelp plants. Sport fishers often catch these fish, but they must be careful when they do: rock fishes have poisonous spines on some of their fins.

Blue rockfish eat small floating animals like shrimps and jellyfishes.



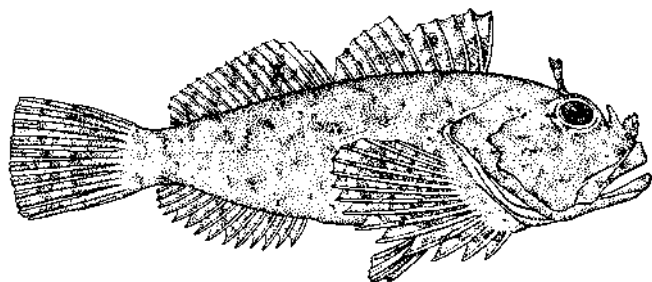
**Brown turban snail**

**Brown turban snail**

*Tegula brunnea* [size: to 1 in. (2.5 cm)]

Brown turban snails live on kelp plants, most often on the upper blades. Predators like the sea star live on the seafloor below, so the turban snail is safer up high in the canopy.

Kelp provides lunch as well as a living-place for the turban snail. The snails rasp away the algae with their file-like tongues.



**Cabezon**

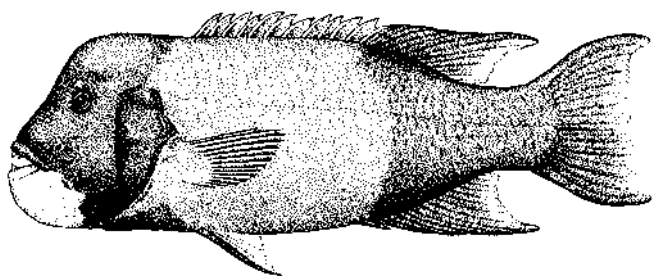
**Cabezon**

*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*

[size: to 3.25 ft. (99 cm)]

Like their relatives, the small tidepool sculpins, cabezons live on the bottom in rocky areas. When they sit still, their waving fins and mottled color blend in with the surrounding seaweed.

Cabezons eat invertebrates like crabs and snails, and some fishes. They swallow abalones whole, then spit out the shells. "Cabezon" means "big head" in Spanish. This fish has a big mouth, too—it can gulp large prey.



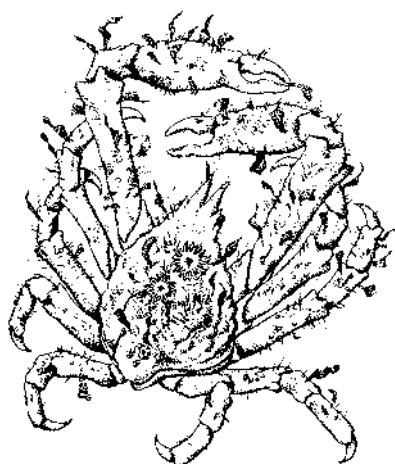
**California sheephead**

**California sheephead**

*Semicossyphus pulcher* [size: to 3 ft. (91 cm)]

Sheephead swim above rocky areas. These fish are all born female, but turn into males when they grow to about 12 inches. They also turn color, from red to red-and-black with white chins.

Sheephead eat snails, crabs, urchins and other shellfish. They're good to eat, so divers often catch them.



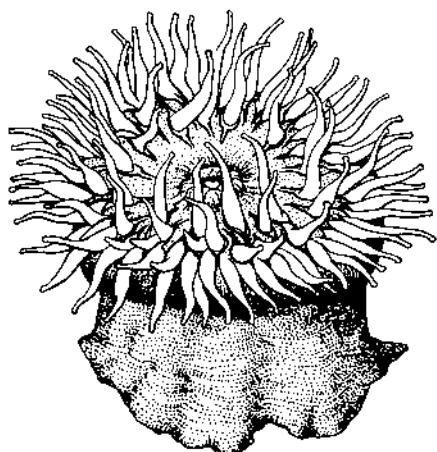
**Decorator crab**

**Decorator crab**

*Loxorhynchys crispatus* [size: to 3.5 in. (8.8 cm)]

A decorator crab camouflages its shell with algae, sponges and other things that grow on local rocks. When the crab sheds the shell for a new one, it has to redecorate. Often, the crab will transfer material from the old shell to the new.

Decorator crabs eat algae, sea urchins, small crustaceans and sponges.

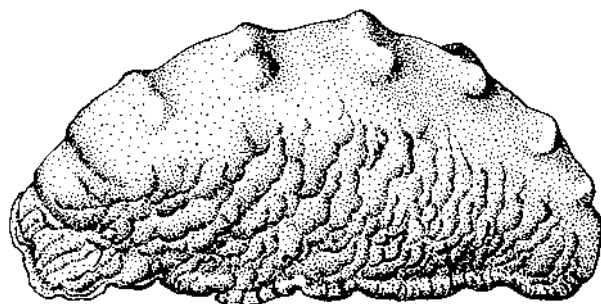


**Fish-eating anemone**

## **Fish-eating anemone**

*Urticina piscivora* [size: to 8 in. (20 cm)]

This anemone snares shrimp and small fishes. Its stinging tentacles shoot thousands of tiny harpoons into the prey to hold it. A poison from the harpoons stuns the prey. After making a catch, the anemone stuffs the meal into its mouth then closes up to digest it.



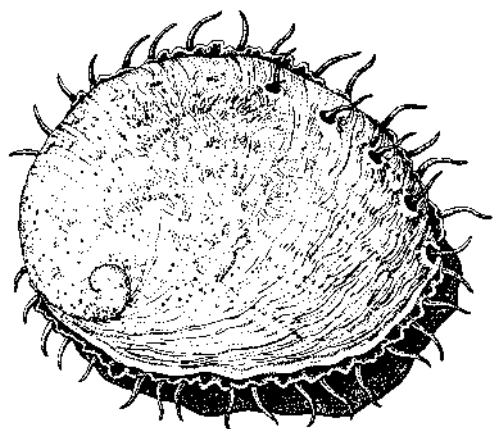
**Gumboot chiton**

## **Gumboot chiton**

*Cryptochiton stelleri* [size: to 12 in. (30 cm)]

The gumboot chiton is the largest chiton in the world. It lives on the kelp forest floor, clinging to rocks with its single large foot. It looks like half a football, but is related to snails and clams. Its eight shells are inside, like a skeleton.

A gumboot chiton eats mostly red seaweeds, rasping with its filelike tongue.



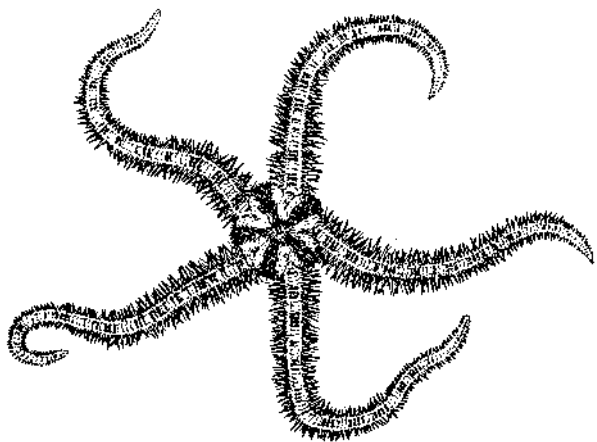
**Red abalone**

## **Red abalone**

*Haliotis rufescens* [size: to 11.8 in. (30 cm)]

Red abalone live in crevices, rarely moving far from a chosen spot on the rock. The holes in the shell are outlets for water circulation.

These abalone catch passing seaweed for food. When the tentacles sense a large piece of drifting kelp, the abalone rears toward it, then grabs the seaweed with its big foot.



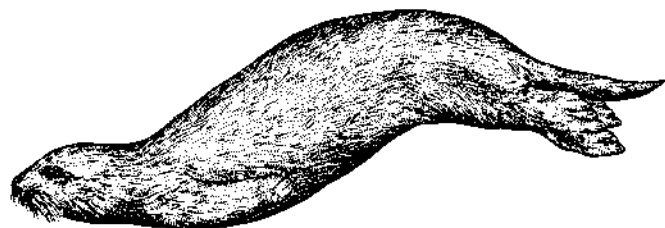
**Spiny brittle star**

**Spiny brittle star**

*Ophiothrix spiculata* [size: to 5.7 in. (14.4 cm)]

Brittle stars hide among rocks and in the rootlike kelp holdfasts, anchored into cracks by their long spines. Their delicate arms break easily, but also grow back quickly.

Brittle stars catch suspended food particles by waving their arms through the water. Small tube feet on each arm transfer the food to the mouth.



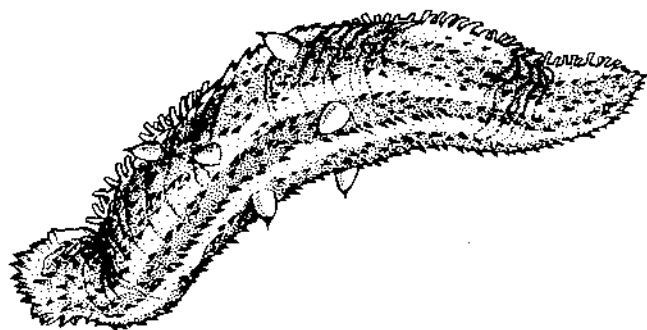
**Sea otter**

**Sea otter**

*Enhydra lutris* [size: to 5.5 ft. (1.7 m)]

For warmth, the sea otter relies on its thick fur coat with 600,000 hairs per square inch. The otter spends nearly half its waking hours grooming its fur coat to keep it waterproof.

The otter dives for shellfish, then eats lying on its back at the surface. Because it consumes abalones and crabs, the otter sometimes competes with people for food.



**Sea cucumber**

**Sea cucumber**

*Parastichopus californicus* [size: to 16 in. (40 cm)]

Sea cucumbers creep slowly across the kelp forest floor. Relatives of the sea stars, they use hundreds of tiny suction cup feet called "tube feet" to move.

The tentacles around a sea cucumber's mouth are also a type of tube foot. The sea cucumber brushes the tentacles across the seafloor as it moves, collecting organic particles and stuffing them into its mouth.