

Oregon's Rocky Shore Species: Anemones



Giant Green Anemones get their bright coloration from symbiotic, single-celled algae living within them



This close-up of a giant green anemone illustrates variation in their green hues



Aggregating anemones are clonal species, often occurring in large groups of genetically identical individuals



Close-up of an aggregating anemone. While they are often covered with small bits of shells and pebbles, once open, they show off their bright colors

Oregon's Rocky Shore Species: Sea Stars



Rocky shores are home to a diverse group of species including the very colorful ochre sea star



Close-up of ochre sea stars illustrating the variety of colors they exhibit. All three stars are the same species



A smaller relative of the ochre star, the blood star lacks a spiny surface and comes in reds and oranges



The sunflower sea star comes in shades of orange, purple and red. Despite the large size it can attain (up to 3 ft), it is quite fragile



The underside of sea stars is covered with small tube feet, which they use for both attaching to rocks, moving around and feeding

Oregon's Rocky Shore Species: Sea Squirts and Bryozoans



Tunicates (aka sea squirts) can be compound (left) or solitary (right). Although they may not look like animals, they are chordates, so they are more closely related to humans than any invertebrate such as a crab, sea star, or octopus.



Other animals that may be confused with plants are bryozoans (aka moss animals). Some species are upright with branches that can look like small trees (left), while others are encrusting species (right) and grow flat.

Oregon's Rocky Shore Species: Molluscs & Arthropods



Common species in Oregon's rocky areas: blue mussels and gooseneck barnacles



Large blue mussels (left) and a close up shot of a common barnacle species (right)

Oregon's Rocky Intertidal Species: Molluscs



Black Katy aka the leather chiton for it's leathery appearance



Whelks, small littorine snails, and barnacles



A common species, the finger limpet



A small, colorful lined chiton



A lemon nudibranch aka sea slug



The underside of a gumboot chiton, the worlds largest chiton



The mossy chiton gets its name from the bristles found along the edge of its plates

Some Common Intertidal Plants



This branching marine plant is known commonly as nail brush seaweed which while it may appear brown is actually in the red algae group.



This species is known as black pine since it looks like pine needles. It is also a red algal species.



This species rough, towel like texture gives it the common name of Turkish washcloth. It is another member of the plant division, rhodophyta (red algae).

“Tar spot” (blobs on rocks that look like paint or tar) is a different stage in the life cycle of this red alga.



This species is known commonly as sea cauliflower or sea bugger.

Thin, green sheet-like algae is probably *Ulva*, or sea lettuce. It is very common in Oregon’s rocky intertidal (not pictured here).



Both of these species are rockweeds. However, the species on the left is known as little rockweed and the one on the right is simply, rockweed or *Fucus*. The easiest way to tell the difference is that *Fucus* has mid-ribs on its branches. Both are common in Oregon’s rocky intertidal areas.



Sea palms (*Postelsia sp.*) usually grown on exposed rocky areas with high wave activity (top). The easiest way to see this species is finding it washed up on a beach (left).



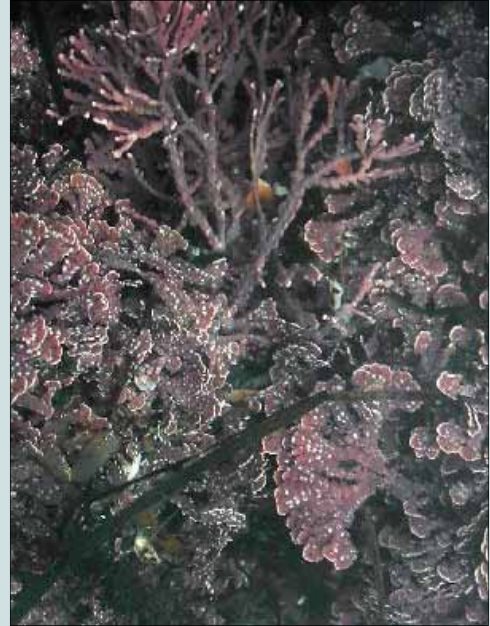
Feather boa kelp (left) and Giant Bull Kelp (right) often wash up on Oregon's beaches. They tend to grow in rocky subtidal areas.



Beds of kelp (above) provide habitat for many rocky intertidal and subtidal species, including small fish.



Photos: Laurel Hillmann



What may at first appear to be simply a pink rock (top left), is probably one covered with coralline red algae. While not a coral (which are animals), this plant resembles some corals (and also secrete a carbonate shell), hence its common name.



Photos: Laurel Hillmann

Marine Mammals and Birds



Marine mammals, like these harbor seals, often haul-out on Oregon's rocky shores. Please observe them from a distance as they are easily disturbed.



Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*) resting in the sun



Black oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*) are easily identified by their bright red eyes and beak.



Pigeon guillemots (*Cephus columba*) have black beaks, white patches on their wings and bright red feet.