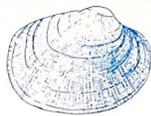


Common Clams, Cockles, Scallops, Oysters of Alaska



Pacific Razor Clam

Siliqua patula
 Distribution: Bristol Bay to southern California
 Habitat: Intertidal zone, open coasts in sand
 Size: Up to 8"
 Identification: Long narrow shell, thin and brittle, olive green to brown color



Pacific Littleneck Clam

Protothaca staminea
 Distribution: Aleutian Islands to mid-California
 Habitat: Midtidal to subtidal zone, mud to coarse gravel beaches
 Size: Up to 2 1/2"
 Identification: External surface of shell with radiating and concentric grooves



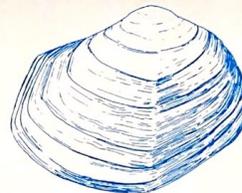
Butter Clam

Saxidomus gigas
 Distribution: Aleutian Islands to mid-California
 Habitat: Intertidal zone to 120 feet depth, on protected gravel, sandy beaches
 Size: Up to 5"
 Identification: Dense shell, external surface with concentric rings, prominent growth rings



Spiny Scallop

Chlamys hazata
 Distribution: Gulf of Alaska to California
 Habitat: Low intertidal area to 400 feet depth
 Size: Up to 3 1/2"
 Identification: Shell thin and flattened, auricles uneven size, 20-30 ribs on each shell, ribs spiny textured



Horse (Gaper) Clam

Tresus capax
 Distribution: Shumagin Islands, Alaska to California
 Habitat: Intertidal zone, imbedded deeply
 Size: Up to 8"
 Identification: Shell large and thick, wide gap between shells at posterior end when held together, dark covering on shell surface often partially worn off



Alaska Razor Clam

Siliqua alata
 Distribution: Bering Sea to Cook Inlet
 Habitat: Intertidal zone to 30 feet on open sandy beaches
 Size: Up to 6"
 Identification: Long narrow shaped shell, shell thin and brittle, brown to olive green color



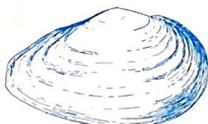
Cockle

Climacocardium nuttalli
 Distribution: Bering Sea to southern California
 Habitat: Intertidal zone to 90 feet, mud to sand beaches
 Size: Up to 6"
 Identification: Thick cupped shells, up to 35 strong ribs spreading from the hinge to shell margin



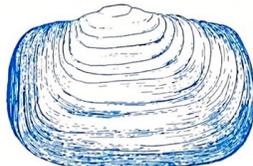
Blue Mussel

Mytilus edulis
 Distribution: Northern Hemisphere
 Habitat: Rocky intertidal areas of exposed and protected coastline
 Size: Up to 4"
 Identification: Blue-black to brownish shell, shell pointed at one end and round at the other, has a thread-like structure to attach to substrate



Soffshell Clam

Mya arenaria
 Distribution: Worldwide north of mid-California
 Habitat: Upper tidal level mud flats
 Size: Up to 6"
 Identification: Shell soft, easily broken, one end of shell rounded, other end pointed, concentric rings only



Geoduck

Panopeus alpinus
 Distribution: Sitka, Alaska to Gulf of California
 Habitat: Intertidal to deep water, buried deeply in sand and mud bottom
 Size: Shell up to 8"
 Identification: Shells heavy, one end of shell rounded the other end flat, rough concentric grooves on shell surface



Pink Scallop

Chlamys rubida
 Distribution: Bering Sea to mid-California
 Habitat: Low tidal area to 900 feet depth, rocky shoreline
 Size: Up to 2 1/2"
 Identification: Shell thin and flattened, 20-30 ribs on each shell, auricles uneven size, red-pink on one shell, opposite shell color pale



Purple Hinge Rock Scallop

Crassadoma gigantea
 Distribution: Aleutian Islands to southern California
 Habitat: Low tidal area to 200 feet depth, attached to rocks and in crevices
 Size: Up to 10"
 Identification: Very heavy rough shell, purple color hinge area when shell open



Pacific Oyster

Crassostrea gigas
 Distribution: Kachemak Bay to California
 Habitat: Intertidal in mud to rocky beaches. In Alaska only on aquatic farms, but may be a few small populations in southern southeastern Alaska. Does not reproduce in Alaska waters
 Size: Up to 8"
 Identification: Shell irregular shape, rough surface, upper shell cupped while lower shell flat

Shellfish drawings from *Intertidal Bivalves: A Guide to Common Marine Bivalves of Alaska*, Nora R. Foster 1991 University of Alaska Press