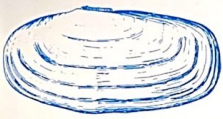


# Common Clams, Cockles, Scallops, Oysters of Alaska



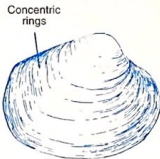
**Pacific Razor Clam**

*Siliqua panda*  
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



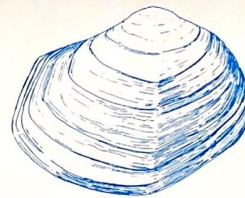
**Butter Clam**

*Saxidomus gigasius*  
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 hastata*  
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



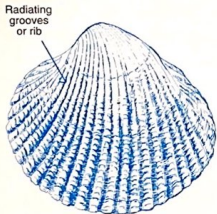
**Horse (Gaper) Clam**

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



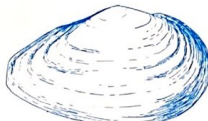
**Alaska Razor Clam**

*Siliqua alba*  
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



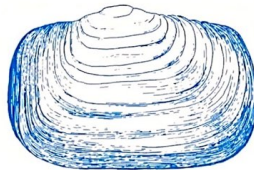
**Blue Mussel**

*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



**Softshell 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



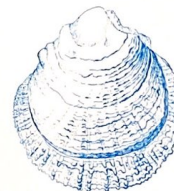
**Geoduck**

*Panopeus abnoba*  
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



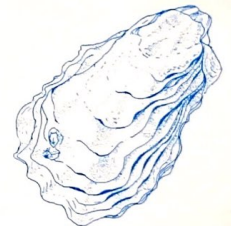
**Pink Scallop**

*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