

Pacific Sand Lance



Photo: Katie Houle

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ammodytes personatus*

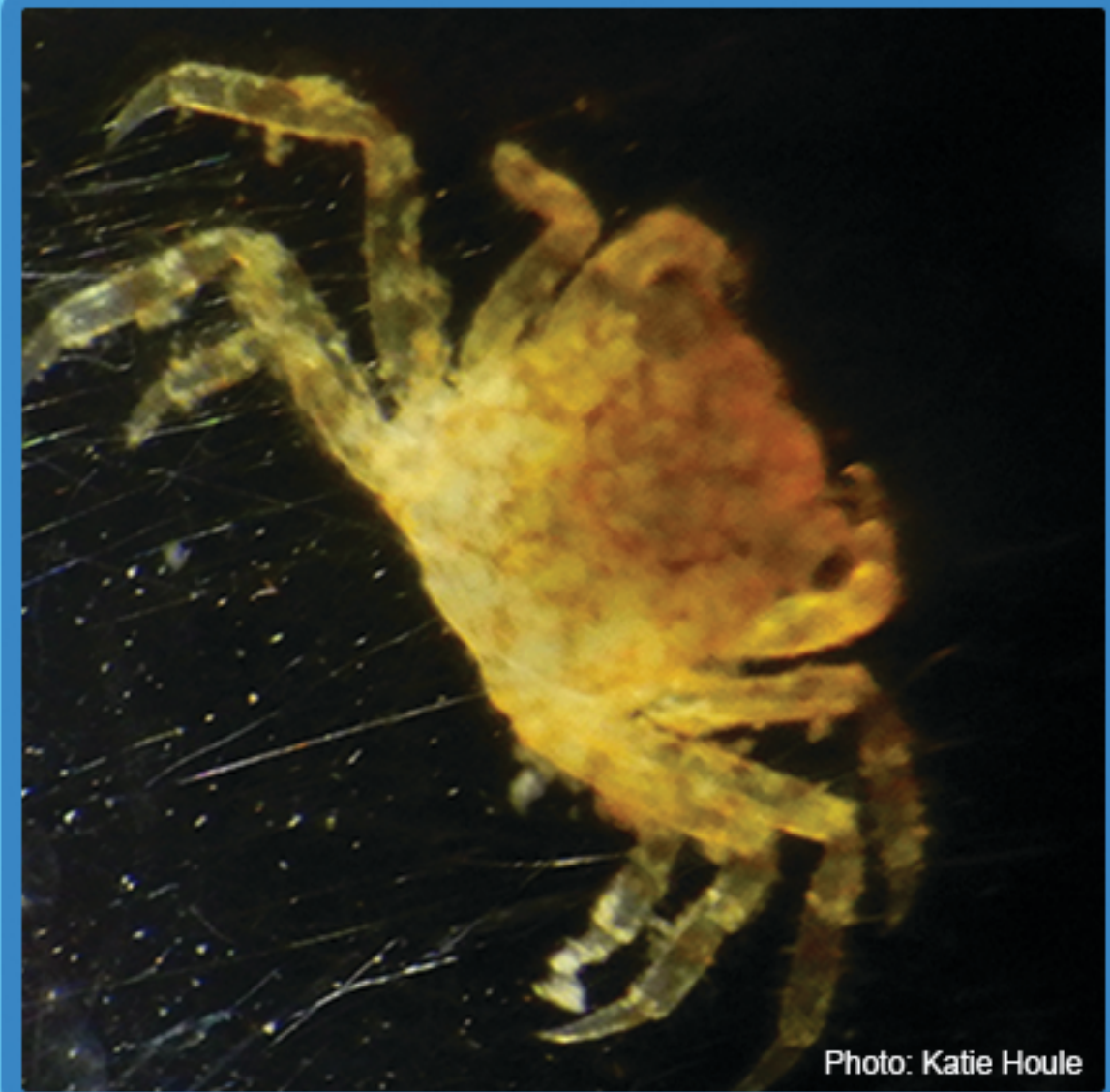
VERTEBRATE(ver·te·brate) having a backbone

LIFE STAGE: Adult, 4in. length up to 8 inches

FEEDING HABITS: At night sand lance burrow in the sandy nearshore to hide from predators. During the day, they forage on small crustaceans, marine worms, fish larvae, other zooplankton and phytoplankton.

FUN FACTS: Sand lance are prey for more than 100 species in Puget Sound! They are a main food source for juvenile salmon, making up 35-60% of their diet. Hundreds of sand lance can be seen swimming in schools near the waters surface. This behavior attracts the attention of many sea birds looking for a tasty snack!

Shore Crab Instar



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hemigrapsus spp.*

Arthropod (ar-thro-pod) paired jointed appendages

LIFE STAGE: Juvenile, ~2-3mm in length

FEEDING HABITS: Juvenile benthic instars feed on algae, detritus and small invertebrates

FUN FACT: Juvenile instars avoid habitat where adult crabs like to spend their time foraging.

This is because adult crabs, even of the same species, will cannibalize their young! Yikes!

Graceful Rock Crab



Photo: Katie Houle

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Metacarcinus gracilis*

Arthropod (ar·thro·pod) paired jointed appendages

LIFE STAGE: Megalopa, ~2.3-3.3 mm in length

FEEDING HABITS: Scavenges or eats small invertebrates in sandy/muddy habitats from the intertidal to subtidal zones near eelgrass or pilings.

FUN FACT: Adults are often mistaken for the larger, tastier Dungeness crab that also has white-tipped claws. The carapace of the graceful rock crab is widest at the 9th tooth as opposed to the 10th tooth in the Dungeness crab and has hairless purple legs!

Bay Pipefish



Photo: Katie Houle

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Syngnathus leptorhynchus*

VERTEBRATE(ver·te·brate) having a backbone

LIFE STAGE: Juvenile, ~1in. up to 13in. in length

FEEDING HABITS: Juveniles & adults feed on small crustaceans by inflating their cheeks and “slurping” them into their tiny tubular mouths. Commonly found in Puget Sound eelgrass habitat and calm marina environments.

FUN FACTS: Pipefish are in the same family as seahorses! These unique fish are armoured with bony circular plates. They swim in an almost vertical position with tiny pectoral fins. Like seahorses, males incubate the eggs in a special brood pouch until they reach 3/4in. like this young pipefish!

Northern Clingfish



Photo: Margaret Homerding

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Gobiesox maeandricus*

VERTEBRATE(ver·te·brate) having a backbone

LIFE STAGE: Juvenile, ~1in. length, up to 6.5in.

FEEDING HABITS: Juveniles feed on tiny crustaceans (e.g. copepods & amphipods) and polychaetes commonly found in our light trap. Adults prey on small crabs, limpets & chitons in the rocky intertidal zone to 30m deep.

FUN FACTS: Northern clingfish have a suction cup-like disk on their belly that helps them “cling” to rocky surfaces in their wave-swept environment. At low tide, the disk holds moisture, allowing the fish to breathe until the tide comes in.

Giant Pile Worm



Photo: Shannon Boldt

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Neanthes brandti*

ANNELID (an·ne·lid) segmented worm

LIFE STAGE: Adult, 30cm - 1m+ in length

FEEDING HABITS: Small crustaceans and algae in muddy environments, very low intertidal to subtidal

FUN FACTS: *N.brandti* is the largest polychaete or marine worm on the Pacific coast and can exceed 1m in length! In summer months the **epitoke** or reproductive stage of this animal can be seen in large swarms near the waters surface at night cued by the moon. Stop by your local marina one evening to see the show!

Red Octopus



Photo: Margaret Homering

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Octopus rubescens*

MOLLUSK (mol·lusk) soft-bodied animal

LIFE STAGE: Juvenile, ~2-4mm in length

FEEDING HABITS: Adults are benthic predators that feed on crustaceans including small crabs, other mollusks and fishes.

FUN FACT: The red octopus has millions of tiny colored cells called chromatophores that the animal can control to change color for defense, camouflage or attracting a mate!