

Black Abalone

Haliotis cracherodii

Black abalone are identified by their blackish-blue shell and jet-black epipodium and tentacles. The shells are smooth with a pearly white interior, little to no muscle scar, and sparse algal growth.

There are five to nine open respiratory pores, flush with the shell surface. Black abalone live from the intertidal zone to 20 ft deep, where they shelter in crevices between boulders.

POPULATION STATUS

Endangered ¹

MAXIMUM SIZE

Up to 8 inches ³

LIFESPAN

Up to 30 years ¹

DEPTH RANGE

Intertidal to 20 feet ⁴

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Point Arena, CA to
Bahia Tortugas, MX. ⁴

SHELL COLORS

Blackish-blue, sometimes
faded. Smooth texture. ³



BODY COLORS

Body, epipodium and tentacles jet black. ³

PREFERRED HABITAT

Coastal and offshore island intertidal areas, found on exposed rocky shores with deep crevices. ²

HARVEST INFORMATION

Recreational & commercial wild harvest is prohibited. ¹

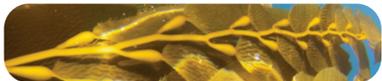


Adult black abalone at the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center.



Black abalone sheltering in a crevice at low tide in Central California.
Images: Oriana Poindexter, unless noted otherwise.

ASSOCIATED ALGAL SPECIES ²



GIANT KELP
Macrocystis pyrifera



FEATHER BOA KELP
Egregia menziesii



BULL KELP
Nereocystis leutkeana
Image: [Sophia McCoy, Florida State Univ.](#)

REFERENCES

- 1 74 FR 1937.
- 2 76 FR 66806.
- 3 Cox, 1962.
- 4 Neuman et al., 2010.



National
Marine Sanctuary
Foundation



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES
CHANNEL ISLANDS



NOAA
FISHERIES



PELAGIC
PROJECTS