

Flat Abalone

Haliotis walallensis

The flat abalone is one of the least-seen abalone on the Pacific West Coast. Aptly named, this species uses its uniquely flattened profile to hide deep in crevices or underneath boulders.

The shell exterior is variable, red with patterning in blue, green and white. The interior has light pink iridescence and lacks a muscle scar. The four to eight open respiratory pores are oval and slightly raised above the shell surface. Their epipodium has distinctly raised papillae, which are bumpy to the touch.

POPULATION STATUS

Declined ^{1,4}

MAXIMUM SIZE

Up to 7 inches ^{2,3}

LIFESPAN

Unknown

DEPTH RANGE

Subtidal to 70 feet ²

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Newport, OR to San Benito Island, Baja California, MX. ³

SHELL DESCRIPTION

Brick red, with blue-green and white mottling or spiral streaks. ³

PREFERRED HABITAT

Subtidal in northern part of range, to 70 feet in southern portion. Found deep in crevices, below boulders. ²



BODY DESCRIPTION

Body mottled yellow & brown. Epipodium alternating yellow & brown, lacelike. Tentacles dark green. To the touch, epipodium is bumpy, covered in raised papillae. ^{2,5}

HARVEST INFORMATION

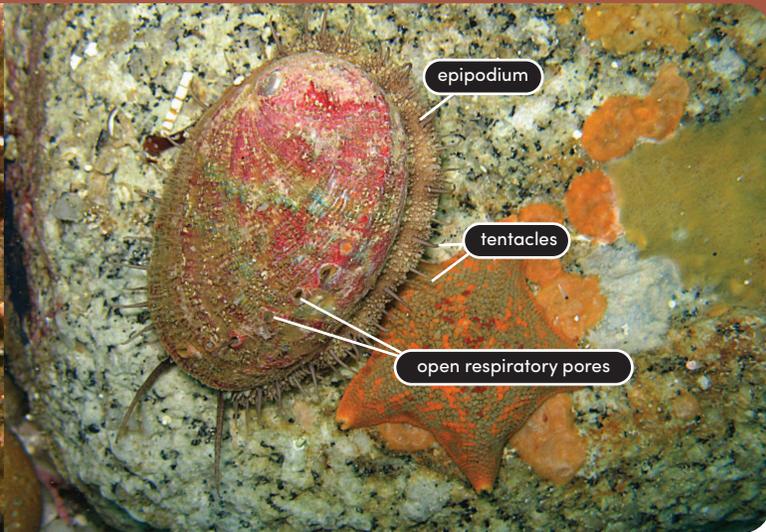
Recreational & commercial wild harvest is prohibited. ¹



A flat abalone on a boulder with crustose coralline algae in Northern CA.

Image: Kevin Joe.

Other Images: Oriana Poindexter, unless noted otherwise.



A flat abalone clings to the underside of a boulder in 40 ft of water. Central California.

Image: Dwayne Dinucci. Originally published in

Abalone: Worldwide Haliotidae (Geiger & Owen, 2012).

ASSOCIATED ALGAL SPECIES



GIANT KELP

Macrocystis pyrifera



BULL KELP

Nereocystis leutkeana



SEA PALM

Postelsia palmaeformis

REFERENCES

- 1 CA Dept of Fish & Game, Abalone Recovery & Mgmt Plan, 2005.
- 2 Cox, 1962. 3 Geiger & Owen, 2012. 4 Rogers-Bennett, 2007.
- 5 Owen et al., 1971.



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