

# Green Abalone

*Haliotis fulgens*

Green abalone are the species most commonly encountered in Southern CA. They are most often found from the low intertidal to 30 ft deep, in or near rocky crevices.

They can be identified by their green tentacles and mottled cream and brown epipodial fringes. The shell exterior has spiral ribbing but is often encrusted, with bright blue-green iridescence inside. The 5 to 7 open respiratory pores are round and slightly raised.

## POPULATION STATUS

Declined

## MAXIMUM SIZE

Up to 10 inches<sup>3</sup>

## LIFESPAN

30 years or more<sup>4</sup>

## DEPTH RANGE

0 to 60 feet<sup>3</sup>

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Point Conception, CA to  
Bahia de Magdalena, MX<sup>4</sup>

## SHELL DESCRIPTION

Olive green to reddish-  
brown. Low spiral ribbing.<sup>2</sup>

## PREFERRED HABITAT

Rock crevices, under rocks, other cryptic spaces<sup>4</sup>

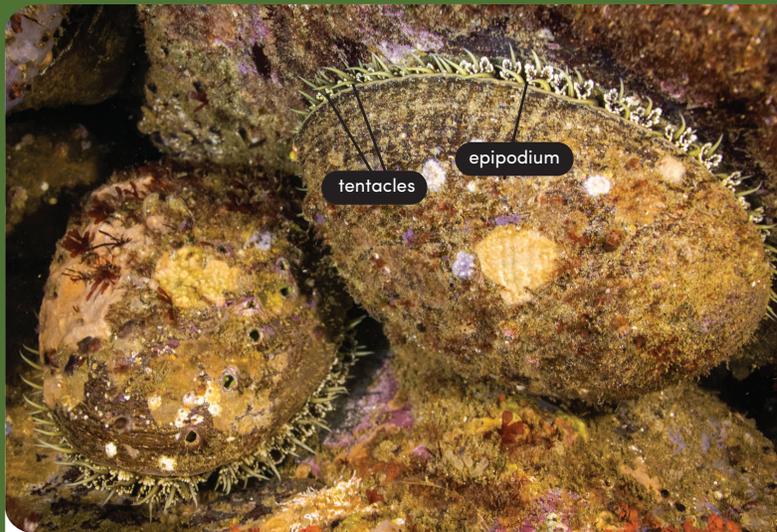


## BODY DESCRIPTION

Body, tentacles green. Epipodium mottled cream & brown.<sup>3</sup>

## HARVEST INFORMATION

Recreational & commercial wild harvest is prohibited.

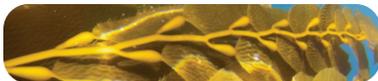


Two adult green abalone shelter in a crevice in 15 feet of water.



A green abalone in the intertidal zone, exposed to air at low tide.  
Images: Oriana Poindexter, unless noted otherwise.

### ASSOCIATED ALGAL SPECIES <sup>2</sup>



**GIANT KELP**  
*Macrocystis pyrifera*



**FEATHER BOA KELP**  
*Egregia menziesii*



**SURF GRASS\***  
*Phyllospadix* spp.  
\*not an alga

#### REFERENCES

- 1 CA Dept of Fish & Game, Abalone Recovery & Mgmt Plan, 2005.  
2 Cox, 1962. 3 Geiger & Owen, 2012. 4 NOAA Fisheries Species Profile.



**National  
Marine Sanctuary  
Foundation**

