

Pinto Abalone

Haliotis kamtschatkana

Formerly considered two separate species, the pinto abalone is now accepted as one species with two visually distinctive morphological types.¹

Northern type has a lumpy shell surface, with colors including red, green, orange, white. Apex is elevated and shell is elongated in shape, with three to six open respiratory pores.

Southern type has spiral ribbing on the shell and is more spherical in shape, with colors including brown, pink and blue and four to seven open respiratory pores.

POPULATION STATUS

Declined⁴

MAXIMUM SIZE

Up to 7 inches³

LIFESPAN

15 to 20 years⁵

DEPTH RANGE

Intertidal to 120 feet⁵

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Salisbury Sound, Alaska to Bahia Tortugas, Baja CA, MX. Types mix in Central CA.⁵

SHELL DESCRIPTION

Highly variable in color, texture. Red, orange, green, pink, blue, white. No scar.³

PREFERRED HABITAT

Intertidal and cryptic in the northern part of their range. More exposed and to depths of 100 feet in southerly areas.⁶



BODY DESCRIPTION

Southern type mottled beige-brown body, yellowish tentacles. Northern type mottled greenish-brown body and tentacles. Bright yellow visible through respiratory pores.³

HARVEST INFORMATION

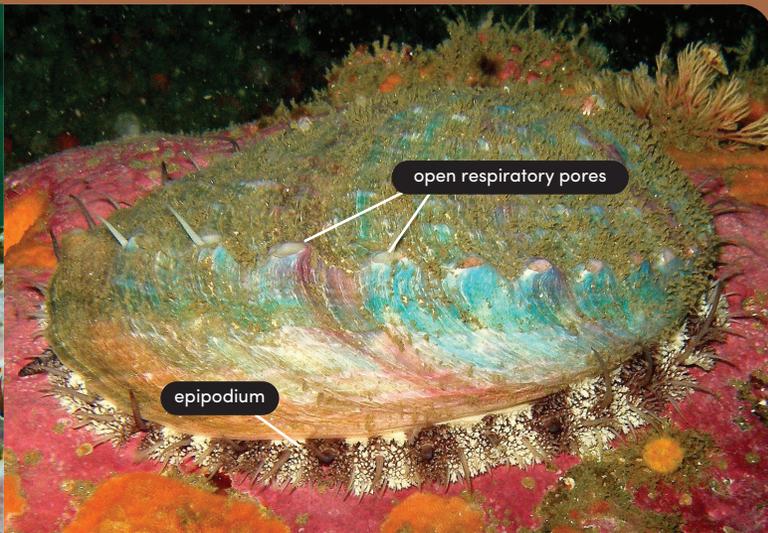
Recreational & commercial wild harvest is prohibited.⁶



Northern type in 35–40 feet of water off of Northern California.

Image: Jonathon Centoni.

Other Images: Oriana Poindexter.



Southern type in approximately 60 feet of water off of San Diego, CA.

Image: Dave Rudie

ASSOCIATED ALGAL SPECIES



Laminaria spp.

Image: UC Berkeley Herbarium



GIANT KELP

Macrocystis pyrifera



BULL KELP³

Nereocystis leutkeana



Agarum spp.

Image: centralcoastbiodiversity.org



'CCA'

Corallina spp.



Lithothamnion spp.

Image: NOAA/SWFSC

REFERENCES

- 1 Owen & Rafferty, 2017.
- 2 Cox, 1962.
- 3 Geiger & Owen, 2012.
- 4 Rogers-Bennett, 2007.
- 5 NOAA Species Directory: Pinto Abalone.
- 6 CA Dept of Fish & Game, Abalone Recovery & Mgmt Plan, 2005.



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