



Educate · Engage · Explore

Beach Walk Guide

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Inspiring a Sea of Change
since 1991



Common Sea Star: Grows to about 5" in diameter and its coloration can be tan, brown, or olive. Eats a variety of invertebrates such as clams, mussels, and oysters.



Oyster: Has a long, narrow, irregular shell. Can reach 10" in length and comes in a variety of shapes and colors. An adult oyster can filter about 1.3 gallons of water per hour!



Atlantic Horseshoe Crab: Described as a "living fossil", this animal has changed very little in 450 million years. Lives in warm, shallow, coastal waters and is more closely related to spiders and scorpions.



Knobbed Whelk: Has a spiral shell with knobs (or spines) along its shoulder, coils from left to right, and is yellowish gray. The knobbed whelk is the state shell of New Jersey.



Channeled Whelk: Is named for the small grooves or channels on the edge of its shell. It is a popular menu item and collected for the seashell trade.



Whelk Egg Case: Sometimes called a mermaid's necklace, this string of egg capsules can be 2-3 feet long. Each capsule may contain 20-100 eggs.



Ark Clam: Varies in shape and size. There are about 200 different species worldwide.



Moon Snail: Found in sandy flats searching for clams and other snails for food. It drills a hole through the shell of its prey and eats the meat.



Razor Clam: Lives in muddy or sandy bottoms. Its average size is 5-9 inches and ranges in color from yellowish to dark brown.



Blue Mussel: Grows in clusters on jetties and bulkheads. Its shell is black and blue and grows to about 3".



Atlantic Bay Scallop: Prefers shallow, calm water. It has 18 pairs of blue eyes to detect movement and will propel itself through the water very quickly when threatened.



Jingle Shell: Anchors to rocks, seaweed, or other shells. Ranges in color from orange, silver, and black. Also known as mermaid's toenails and saddle oysters.



Hard Clam: Also called quahog, little neck, or cherrystone clam. One of the most popular clams used as food. This filter feeder is also important for water quality.



Skate Egg Case: Is a common find on our beach and is also known as a mermaid's purse. Skates and rays are closely related to sharks.

Additional Resources:

barnegatshellfish.org
greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov
reclamthebay.org
barnegatbaypartnership.org

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