Opalescent Nudibranch

INVERTEBRATE

Hermissenda crassicornis

diet: primarily hydroids, aggregating anemones and bryozoans

size: about 7cm (3 inches) long.

Habitat: At Haystack Rock can be found in relative abundance during spring to early summer near hydroid patches all around the center intertidal.

This beautiful sea slug has been known to captivate non-slug lovers! This slug has bright orange cerrata with bright, electric blue stripes running down its side. As they feed on hydroids and anemones this nudibranch transfers some of the stinging cells to the cerrata to use a predatory defense. This species lives less than a year and lays squiggly coils of white eggs.

Fun Fact: They are hermaphroditic and will attack and eat each other.