

Ochre Sea Star



INVERTEBRATE

Pisaster ochraceus

diet: primarily California Mussels and sometimes barnacles.

size: about 10-25cm (4-10 inches) across

Habitat: Rocky Shores - at Haystack Rock can be found during low tide near colonies of mussels. Sometimes detached and lying on sand. Not as abundant as years past due to Sea star wasting syndrome.

*These animals are considered a keystone species (necessary for the environment). Animals can be red, orange and purple with with 5 rays (arms). The white markings surrounding topside arranged around central disk are called **ossicles** (spines) and the white traveling down rays are called **pedicellaria** (claw-like pincers).*

Fun Fact: Females can broadcast over 40 million eggs that look like Pepto-Bismol!