

Sunflower Star



INVERTEBRATE

Pycnopodia helianthoides

diet: largest predators of tidepools - eats everything including other stars

size: about 1 m (39 inches) across

Habitat: Rocky Shores - at Haystack Rock can be found (rarely) around the Needles during extreme low tides.

Orange, purple, reddish-brown, multi-armed with up to 24 rays with approximately 15,000 tube feet. Juveniles begin life with 5 rays (arms). Their mouths are very large and can ingest a whole sea urchin!

Related to: Sand dollars, urchins and sea cucumbers

Fun Fact: they move over 1cm per minute!