



Research and Monitoring

MBNMS Site Characterization

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[Biological Communities: Rocky Intertidal Habitats](#)

Rocky Intertidal Habitats Table 1

Patterns of zonation on MBNMS Rocky Shores, including common species and those whose name has been used to indicate zones. I = Indicator species for the zone, E = found predominantly at wave exposed sites, P = found predominantly at wave protected sites.

Splash Zone (almost always exposed to air)

Animals	Plants
<i>Balanus glandula</i>	Blue-green algae
<i>Chthamalus</i> spp.	Seasonal Diatoms
<i>Ligia</i> spp.	
<i>Littorina keenae</i> (I)	
<i>Pachygrapsus crassipes</i> (P)	

High Intertidal Zone (exposed to air for a long periods twice a day)

Animals	Plants
<i>Balanus glandula</i> (I)	<i>Cladophora columbiana</i>
<i>Chthamalus</i> spp.	<i>Endocladia muricata</i> (I)
<i>Littorina scutulata</i>	<i>Fucus garnderi</i>
<i>Lottia digitalis</i>	<i>Mastocarpus papillatus</i> (I)
<i>Lottia pelta</i>	<i>Pelvetiopsis limitata</i>
<i>McClintockia scabra</i>	<i>Petrocelis</i>
<i>Tegula funebris</i> (P)	<i>Ulva</i> spp.

Mid-Intertidal Zone (exposed to air briefly once or twice a day)

Animals	Plants
<i>Anthopleura elegantissima</i>	<i>Analipus japonicus</i>
<i>Balanus glandula</i>	<i>Bossiella plumosa</i>
<i>Katharina tunicata</i> (E)	<i>Cladophora columbiana</i>
<i>Lottia gigantea</i>	<i>Cylindrocarpus rugosus</i>
<i>Lottia pelta</i>	<i>Egregia menziesii</i>
<i>McClintockia scabra</i>	<i>Endocladia muricata</i>
<i>Mopalia muscosa</i> (P)	<i>Gelidium</i> spp.
<i>Mytilus californianus</i> (I, E)	<i>Gigartina canaliculata</i>
<i>Nucella emarginata</i>	<i>Iridaea splendens</i>
<i>Nuttallina californica</i> (E)	<i>Mastocarpus papillatus</i>
<i>Phragmatopoma californica</i>	<i>Neorhodomela larix</i>
<i>Pisaster ochraceus</i> (E)	<i>Petrocelis</i>
<i>Pollicipes polymerus</i> (I)	<i>Postelsia palmaeformis</i> (E)
<i>Tetraclita rubescens</i> (E)	<i>Ralfsia</i> spp.
<i>Ulva</i> spp.	

Low Intertidal Zone (only exposed to air during the lowest tides of the year)

Animals	Plants
<i>Anthopleura xanthogrammica</i>	<i>Alaria marginata</i>
Bryozoans	<i>Egregia menziesii</i>

Overview

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Nudibranchs (P)	<i>Laminaria spp.</i>
Sponges	<i>Phyllospadix spp. (1)</i>
<i>Strongylocentrotus purpuratus</i>	
Tunicates	

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