

White Abalone

Haliotis sorenseni

White abalone can be identified by their beige, lace-like tentacles and epipodium, and 3 to 5 open respiratory pores. The shells are reddish, lightweight with pearly interiors and no muscle scar.

In the wild, white abalone are very well camouflaged by encrusting organisms and algae, making their tentacles, epipodium, and open pores the most reliable characteristics for identification.

POPULATION STATUS

Endangered ⁵

MAXIMUM SIZE

Up to 9 inches ⁷

LIFESPAN

30 to 40 years ^{1,10}

DEPTH RANGE

15 to 200 feet ⁹

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Point Conception, CA
to Punta Abreojos,
Baja California, MX. ⁶

SHELL COLORS

Variable when encrusted.
Reddish brown with spiral
ribbing if cleaned. ⁴

PREFERRED HABITAT

Require rocky substrate. Live on rocky reefs, solitary outcrops in kelp forests, near sand-rock interface where drift algae accumulates. ^{3,8}

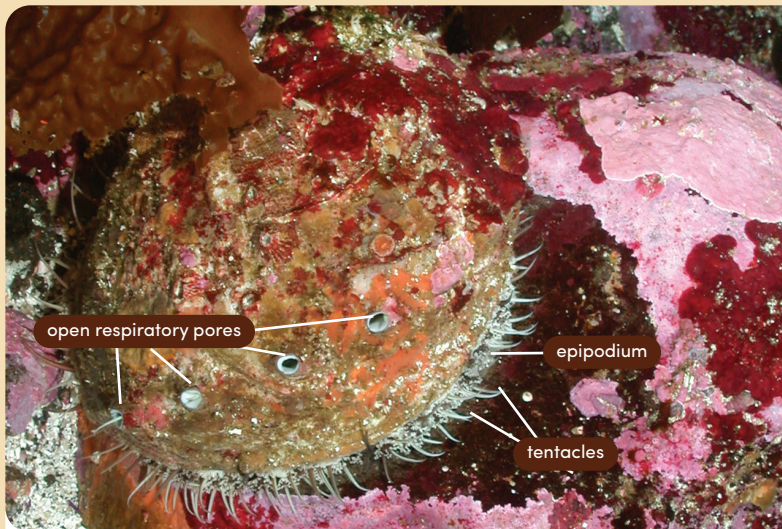


BODY COLORS

Body yellow, orange traces.
Tentacles & epipodium beige, lace-like. ⁴

HARVEST INFORMATION

Recreational & commercial wild harvest is prohibited. ⁵



Adult white abalone in the wild. Image: NOAA/SWFSC.



Adult white abalone in 60 feet of water off San Diego, CA. Images: Oriana Poindexter, unless noted otherwise.

ASSOCIATED ALGAL SPECIES ^{2,3}



GIANT KELP
Macrocystis pyrifera



OAR WEED
Laminaria farlowii
Image: UC Berkeley Herbarium



FRINGED SIEVE
Agarum fimbriatum
Image: centralcoastbiodiversity.org



DULSE
Palmaria spp.



Rhodymenia spp.



'CCA'
Corallina spp.



Lithothamnion spp.
Image: NOAA/SWFSC

REFERENCES

- 1 Andrews et al., 2013.
- 2 Burton et al., 2008.
- 3 Butler et al., 2006.
- 4 Cox, 1962.
- 5 66 FR 29046.
- 6 Hobday & Tegner, 2001.
- 7 Howarth, 1987.
- 8 Lafferty et al., 2004.
- 9 Stierhoff et al., 2012.
- 10 Tutschulte, 1976.



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