





# SHORE SAFETY



- **Dress appropriately:** Don't forget essentials like hats, scarves, gloves, and sunscreen.
- **Check tides and weather:** Visit [www.willyweather.co.uk](http://www.willyweather.co.uk) for updates before heading out.
- **Carry a mobile phone:** Always have your phone on hand for emergencies.
- **Exercise caution:** Be careful when entering and leaving the shore, as surfaces can be slippery.
- **Stay safe in the water:** Never wade into water deeper than your shins.
- **Wear appropriate footwear:** Always opt for boots or wellingtons; no bare feet allowed.
- **Avoid hazards:** Steer clear of sharp or dangerous objects, including marine life.
- **Cover wounds:** Ensure any open cuts are properly covered.
- **Practice good hygiene:** Wash your hands with soap and water after your activities.
- **Stay vigilant:** Be aware of hazard signs, such as those indicating cliff falls, and avoid working in those areas.



# SEASHORE CODE



- Always return boulders, stones, and seaweed to their original positions.
- Minimize trampling on seaweed and wildlife whenever possible.
- Return animals to their original locations.
- Handle animals gently and with wet hands.
- If you use a bucket or tray for viewing or photography, remember to change the water frequently to prevent overheating.
- Leave no trace—take your litter back with you.



# THE SURVEY



- Arrive Early: Get there one hour before low tide to prepare for your exploration.
- Dive into Discovery: Spend over 15 minutes uncovering the low shore.
- Explore the Middle Ground: Spend another 15 minutes on the mid shore.
- Reach New Heights: Explore the high shore for at least 15 more minutes.

Share Your Discoveries: Upload your photos and identify your finds on iNaturalist! 📸



BRING NATURE BACK





iNATURALIST  
LINKS

# HINTS AND TIPS



**Ulster  
Wildlife**



SHORENI

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## PHOTO TAKING GUIDE

# HINTS AND TIPS



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

- Get close to your subject for detailed shots.
- Utilize a white tray or Tupperware dish to capture clear images of individuals.
- Aim to make the subject as large as possible within the frame.
- Bring a small ruler to provide a sense of scale.
- Ensure your phone's GPS is activated to accurately record the location of your subject.



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MEMBERSHIP

# HOW YOU CAN HELP!



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

- Become a member of Ulster Wildlife and help bring nature back
- Volunteer with us
- Adopt an Animal – choose from hedgehog, red squirrel, barn owl or shark
- Sign up for our email updates
- Follow us on social media



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## SPECIES ID GUIDE

# KEY



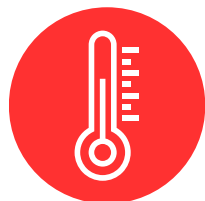
### Northern Ireland Priority Species

Species of particular importance around Northern Ireland



### Invasive alien species

Non-native species which harm ecosystems



### Climate change indicators

Species that are moving or changing their distributions due to climate change



### Upper shore species

Species found at the highest point of the intertidal zone



### Mid shore species

Species found at the middle point of the intertidal zone



### Low shore species

Species found on the lowest point of the intertidal zone when the tide is out

# SHORENI

**CONFUSION SPECIES**

**BRING NATURE BACK**







# Harpoonweed

*Asparagopsis armata*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Rosy-pink

**Where to look:** Found in pools from the mid shore down. Often attached to other seaweeds

## Key features:

- Distinct barbed 'harpoons' (rhizomes) that is used to attach itself to other seaweeds
- Fluffy in appearance
- Splits into major axes of which lower parts are bare of branches



Wayne Martin, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

Full length: up to 30cm











# Bonnemaison's Hook Weed

*Bonnemaisonia hamifera*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Bright to dark red

**Where to look:** Found in lower shore rockpools and shallow subtidal attached to other seaweeds

## Key features:

- Red, feathery, densely branched fronds
- Soft delicate texture
- Hook-like branches
- Uses 'hooks' to attach to other seaweeds



ortier75, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

Full length: up to 20cm











# Wireweed

*Sargassum muticum*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Light brown to yellow

**Where to look:** In rockpools all over the shore and on rocks on the lower shore where it grows rapidly

## Key features:

- A 'wire-like' stem with long stringy branches
- Branches are covered in numerous small leafy appendages and berry-like floats
- Its' form can either be long and narrow or large and bushy



Full length: up to 200cm



Hannah Floyd, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)







**CONFUSION SPECIES:** Wireweed  
(*Sargassum muticum*)



# Sea - Oak

*Halidrys siliquosa*

See key on title card:

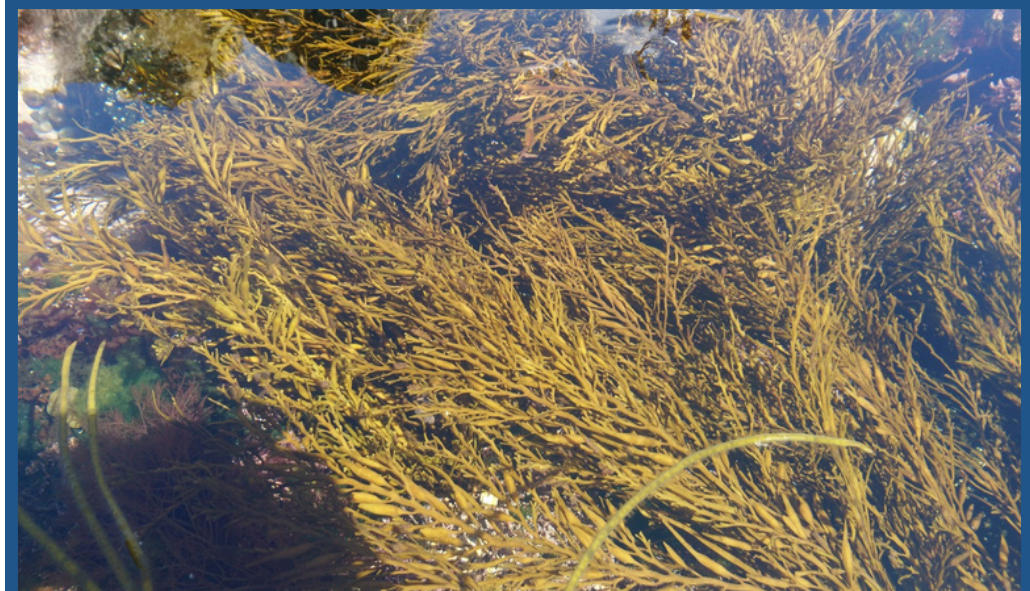


**Colour:** Olive-green to brown

**Where to look:** Found mid shore in rockpools and on the lower shore

## Key features:

- Main stem and branches are flattened
- Stems branch alternately
- Stems have oblong air bladders
- Tough and leathery texture



Full length: up to 120cm



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# Wakame

*Undaria pinnatifida*

See key on title card:



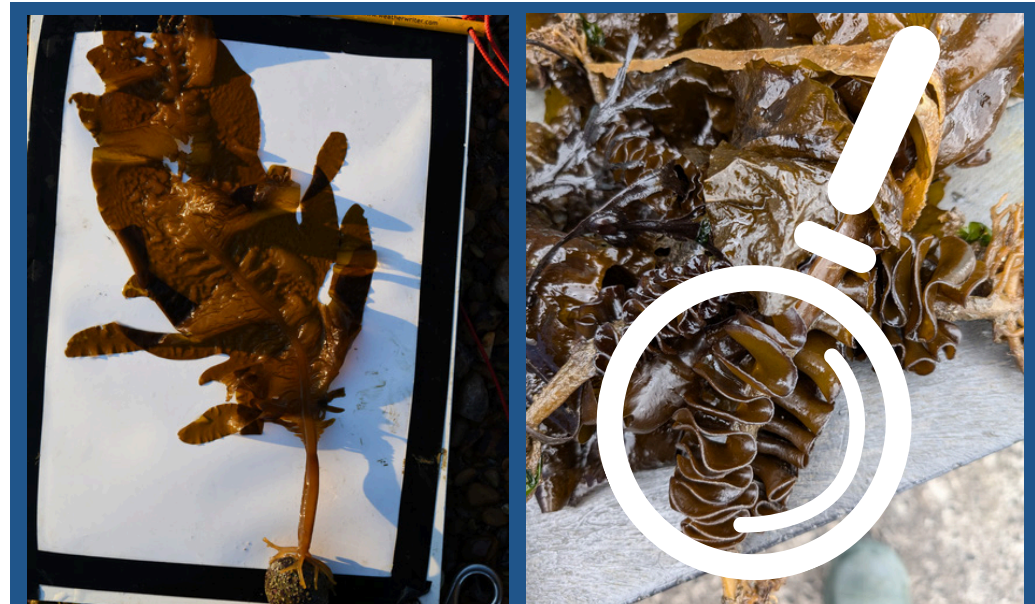
**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Brown

**Where to look:** Any hard surface below the high tide mark to 15m deep

## Key features:

- Large brown seaweed or kelp
- Branched holdfast (attachment point), flat broad midrib
- Blades are broad, flattened, with wavy edges, and the frond (leaf) resembles a hand
- Frilly reproductive bodies can be found at the base of the stipe (stem) in mature specimens



**Full length:** up to 1 - 3m



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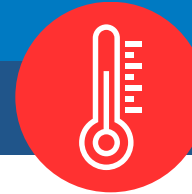




# Dabberlocks

*Alaria esculenta*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Light to dark brown

**Where to look:** Found on exposed rocky shores on low spring tides

## Key features:

- Spear-shaped frond (leaf) with a distinctive midrib
- Frond is thin, delicate and easily torn
- Short flexible stipe (stem)
- Claw-like holdfast (attachment point)



Full length: up to 150cm



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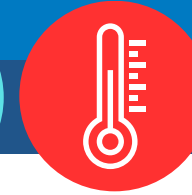




# Sugar Kelp

*Saccharina latissima*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Brown

**Where to look:** Found attached to rocks in the lower shore and sub-tidally

## Key features:

- Its long, flat, strap-like blades have distinctive crinkled edges
- The blades are thick and tough and are attached to the rock by a string holdfast (attachment point)



**Full length:** up to 150cm



The Rock Pool Project (Eleanor), some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)









# Oarweed

*Laminaria digitata*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Dark brownish-green

**Where to look:** Found attached to rocks in the lower shore and sub-tidally

## Key features:

- The fronds are flat and spilt into long finger-like projections (resembles a hand)
- The fronds are attached to a flexible stipe (stem) that is held onto the rocks by a holdfast that resembles roots
- The stipe is generally smooth and free of other organisms growing on it



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**Full length:** up to 2m







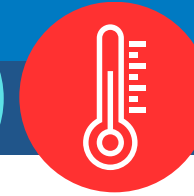




# Cuvie

*Laminaria hyperborea*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Brown

**Where to look:** Found attached to rocks in the lower shore and sub-tidally

## Key features:

- Frond (leaf) is broad and is finger-like
- Fronds lack a midrib
- Stipe (stem) is tough and stiff, often covered in other organisms
- Claw-like holdfast (attachment point)



**Full length:** up to 3.6m



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# Bladder Wrack

*Fucus vesiculosus*

See key on title card:



**Colour:** Brown-green

**Where to look:** Found from the upper shore down to the lower shore

## Key features:

- The fronds have air sacs called 'bladders'
- Fronds branch where there are paired bladders
- Ribs are present down the middle of the blades



Full length: up to 90cm



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**Ulster  
Wildlife**





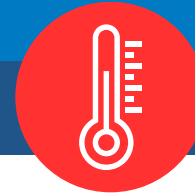




# Spiral Wrack

*Fucus spiralis*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Olive green to light brown

**Where to look:** Found attached to wrack on the upper shore

## Key features:

- The fronds (leaves) are flat and wavy with an obvious midrib
- Fronds have characteristic spiral
- Fronds are evenly forked
- Dark yellow reproductive bladder-like structure may be present at the ends



Full length: up to 20cm



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# Serrated Wrack

*Fucus serratus*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Olive green to light brown

**Where to look:** Found on the middle and lower shore

## Key features:

- Fronds have a distinctive serrated edge
- Lumpy reproductive bodies can be found on the end of fronds
- Fronds branch regularly (dichotomously)



Full length: up to 60cm



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# Egg Wrack

*Ascophyllum nodosum*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Olive green to light brown

**Where to look:** Found attached to rocks and boulders on the low shore in sheltered sites

## Key features:

- Fronds are tough and leathery
- Egg-shaped air bladders at intervals along the main stem and side branches



Full length: up to 150cm



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# Oyster Thief

*Colpomenia peregrina*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Brown

**Where to look:** Found in rockpools or shallow subtidal

## Key features:

- Thin-walled hollow sphere that becomes furrowed as it ages
- Dry, papery texture
- Named oyster thief as specimens attached to oysters can float away with them attached



Full length: up to 7cm



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# Common tortoiseshell limpet

*Testudinalia testudinalis*

See key on title card:



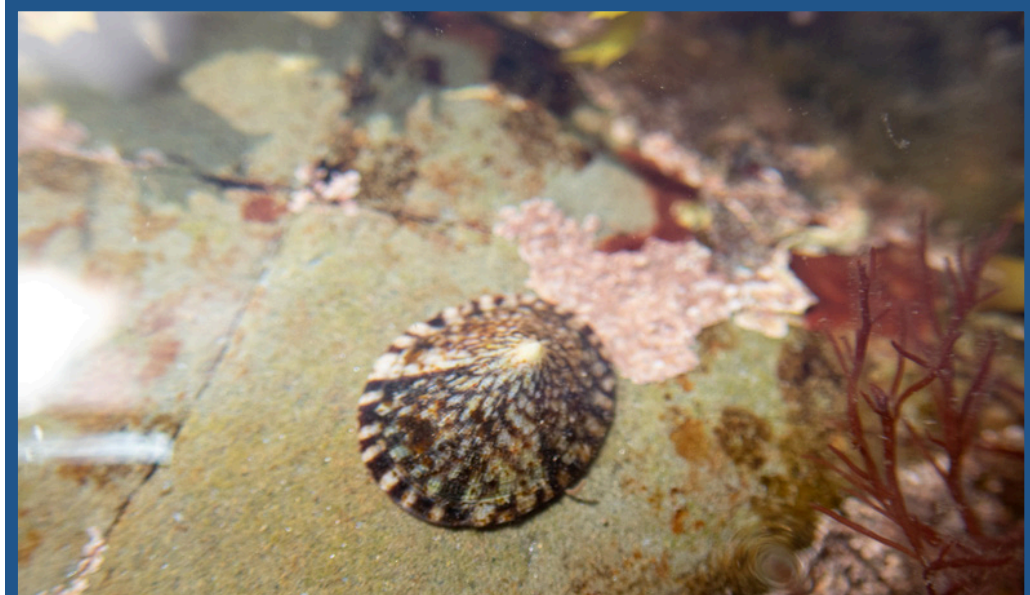
**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Grey, green, off-white or brown with a reddish brown mottling

**Where to look:** Found on rocks within the middle or lower shore or sub tidally

## Key features:

- A very distinctive limpet due to the mottled 'tortoiseshell' like pattern on the shell
- It is also very small when compared to other commonly found limpet species



Full length: up to 2.5cm



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# Slipper Limpet

*Crepidula fornicata*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Pale with reddish brown blotches but often appearing brown or green due to algal covern

**Where to look:** Lower sandy, muddy shores

## Key features:

- Can be found one their own or in long chain-forming groups
- Smooth shell
- Oval shell looks cap-like and bends to the right



Full length: up to 5cm



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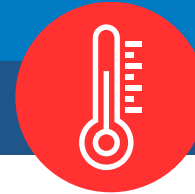




# Lined Topshell (Toothed)

*Phorcus lineatus*

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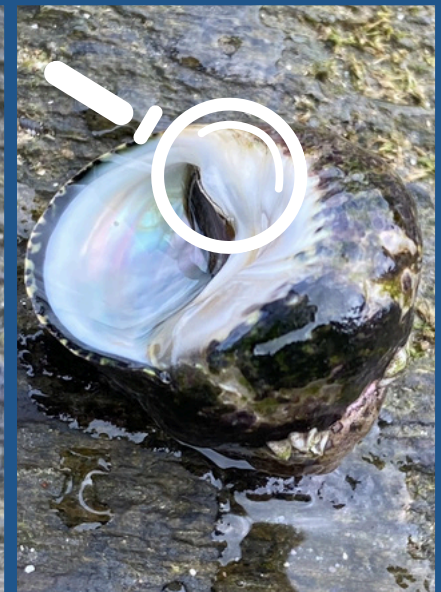
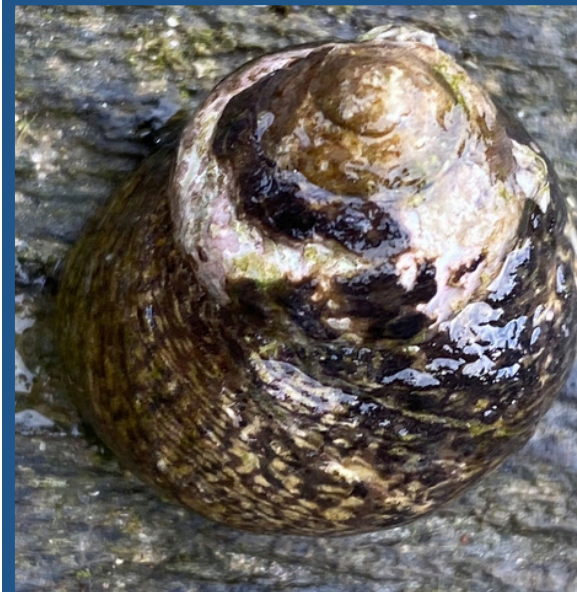


**Colour:** Variable. Dark green to grey with complex brown/purple zigzag patterns

**Where to look:** Found on rocks on the middle and upper shore

## Key features:

- Large, conical shaped shell
- Distinctive white mother-of-pearl around shell opening
- White bulge in edge of shell opening known as the 'tooth'



Full length: up to 2cm



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**Ulster  
Wildlife**









# Purple Topshell

*Steromphala umbilicalis*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Grey with purple stripes

**Where to look:** Found on rocks on the middle and upper shore

## Key features:

- Large round hole (umbilicus) above opening of the shell
- Flat profile, broader than tall
- Broad purple stripes on top and round lip of the shell opening



**Full length:** up to 1.5cm high x 2.2cm across



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Patrick Taggart, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)











# Painted Topshell

*Calliostoma zizyphinum*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Yellowish-pink with darker pink/red stripes. Pure white form common in Strangford Lough

**Where to look:** Found under rocks and on seaweed on the lower shore

## Key features:

- Conical shell with sharp point and broad base
- Clean shell with spiral grooves and ridges
- The foot (inside) is pinkish-orange with flecks of red pigment



Full length: ~2.5cm high



kirstyandrews, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)  
Matthew, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)









# Pacific Oyster

*Magallana gigas*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Variable, yellow-cream, grey, brown or bluish-purple

**Where to look:** Found on rocks on the middle and lower shore

## Key features:

- Wavy lip-line where the two shells meet, much more pronounced than in native oysters
- One half of the shell is almost flat, the second half very domed
- Rough shell margin with 6 or 7 coarse ridges and thick ribs



**Full length:** 'frilly' shell up to 18cm



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# Native Oyster (Flat)

*Ostrea edulis*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Greyish-white in colour becoming darker with age

**Where to look:** Found partially attached to hard substrates shallow subtidal or lower shore

## Key features:

- Irregular, rough textured shell
- Circular shape
- Two shells, one flat one concave
- Can be found unattached in the intertidal



Full length: shell up to 15cm



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# Horse Mussel

*Modiolus modiolus*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Large individuals are deep brown in colour and can look weathered with white patches

**Where to look:** Not likely to find live specimens, shells can be found washed up along the shore

## Key features:

- Look like a large version of a blue mussel
- Often covered in other organisms and algae



Full length: shell up to 20cm



Rebekah Bajkó, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)









# Variegated Scallop

*Mimachlamys varia*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Variable, purple, red, white, yellow, brown, often patterned

**Where to look:** Attached to the underside of boulders on the low shore

## Key features:

- Oval shaped bivalve
- Both shells are convex
- 25-25 ribs on each shell which have small spiny teeth
- Auricles (at hinge of shell) unequal



Full length: up to 6cm



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# Queen Scallop

*Aequipecten opercularis*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Variable, purple, red, white, yellow, brown, often patterned

**Where to look:** Small specimens can be found under rocks on the low shore.

## Key features:

- Oval shaped bivalve
- The left valve (shell) is slightly more convex than the right
- 20 ribs on each shell
- Auricle (at hinge of shell) on right valve (shell) is larger



Full length: ~7cm



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# Ocean Quahog

*Arctica islandica*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Brown-black with white weathering

**Where to look:** Not likely to find live specimens, shells can be found washed up along the shore

## Key features:

- Extremely robust, convex shells
- Numerous concentric rings
- Thought to be some of the oldest organisms on earth!



Full length: up to 12cm



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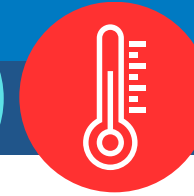




# Montagu's Crab

*Xantho hydrophilus*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Vary considerably in colour but often reddish-brown to yellow with a marbled appearance

**Where to look:** Under rocks on the lower shore

## Key features:

- Bulky crab with five blunt 'teeth' down each side of the carapace (body)
- Lacks 'teeth' between the eyes
- When disturbed it will raise its claws
- Hairless legs



Full length: up to 7cm wide



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# Northern Starfish

*Leptasterias muelleri*

See key on title card:

M

L



**Colour:** Variable, pink, violet, green, grey or brown

**Where to look:** Under rocks and boulders in rock pools from the mid shore down to low shore

## Key features:

- A small spiny starfish
- 5 arms that are broad at the base and taper out
- Upper surface has many knobby spines arranged in rows



Full length: up to 6cm



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**Ulster  
Wildlife**





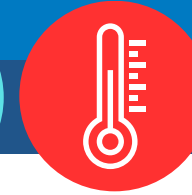




# Common Starfish

*Asterias rubens*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Pale orange or orange-brown

**Where to look:** Under rocks and boulders in rock pools from the mid shore down to low shore

## Key features:

- Lines of white spines on each arm distinguishes from Northern starfish
- 5 tapered arms
- Upper surface has many knobby spines arranged irregularly



**Full length:** up to 30cm (can be up to 52cm)



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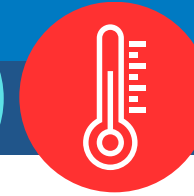




# Tiny Cushion Star

*Asterina phylactica*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Green and orange

**Where to look:** Under rocks and boulders in rock pools on the low shore

## Key features:

- A very small cushion star
- 5 very short arms
- Distinctive dark orange star-star the centre of the upper surface



Full length: up to 1.5cm



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# Leathery Sea Squirt

*Styela clava*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Brown

**Where to look:** Any hard surface at low tide,  
attached to mussel/oyster shells

## Key features:

- Solitary sea squirt
- Surface leathery with folds and swellings
- Body is long, narrow and club-shaped



Brenton Frigge, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

Full length: up to 12cm











# Beadlet Anemone

*Actinia equina*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Usually dark red but can also be green, orange or brown

**Where to look:** On rocks, crevices and in rockpools from the mid to low shore

## Key features:

- Broad jelly-like base
- Up to 192 thick, short tentacles
- Tentacles retract quickly when disturbed or out of water
- Bright blue spots sometimes present just below outer row of tentacles



Full length: Up to 6cm



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# European Eel

*Anguilla anguilla*

See key on title card:



**Ulster  
Wildlife**

**Colour:** Transparent or brownish-yellow to black

**Where to look:** Under rocks and boulders in rock pools from the mid shore down to low shore

## Key features:

- Seen on the rocky shore as the juvenile 'glass' eels or 'bootlace' eels which are darker in colour
- Critically endangered species



Full length: up to 1.5m



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