

Marine Invertebrates – Selected Echinoderms and Segmented Worms

description

Foundation species can either form or alter structural habitat, which can be used by other marine species, or form distinct marine communities that would not be present otherwise. Select echinoderms, such as sea stars and sea urchins, are important predators in benthic and intertidal communities, and are considered foundation species. Echinoderms (e.g. *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*, the purple sea urchin) can also rasp holes or burrow in sediment, which provides habitat for other species. Segmented worms are found in habitats ranging from deep-sea vents to tidal zones and are one of the most abundant foundation species in terms of biomass. The role of these foundation species in creating communities and producing rich and protective habitats for other organisms makes them ecologically important.

This atlas page displays the locations of specimens that have been collected or compiled by the Royal British Columbia Museum. The points displayed are those for the echinoderm and segmented worm species that were recommended at the BC Marine Conservation Analysis (BCMCA) Marine Invertebrate Experts Workshop in October 2007 and include:

- Echinoderms: *Amphiodia periercta*, *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*
- Segmented Worms: *Dodecaceria fewkesi*, *Eudistylia vancouveri*, *Phyllochaetopterus prolifica*, *Serpula columbiana*



PHOTO: STEVEN MALTBY



PHOTO: LIVING OCEANS SOCIETY

data sources

- Royal British Columbia Museum – Echinoderm specimen records and Segmented Worm specimen records

data resolution

- More recent data were collected using GPS. Older data coordinates were estimated.

date collected

- Echinoderms: 1961-2005
- Segmented Worms: 1919-1998

date compiled

- 2012

reviewers

- Not reviewed.

reviewer comments

- None provided.

caveats of use

- Few data are available to map the full extent of the habitat of these species of echinoderms and segmented worms.
- Survey effort is not consistent across all planning units or across all areas of the coast. Areas with no data may not have been surveyed and these data gaps are not necessarily indicative of an absence of these species of echinoderms and segmented worms. Some locations may still be important to these species but currently lack associated data to confirm their value.
- Recommended date of expiry for use of these data in a marine planning context: None provided.

map, feature data and metadata access

- Visit www.bcmca.ca/data for more information.



BCMCA Atlas

Marine Invertebrates

Selected Echinoderms
and Segmented Worms

Legend

- Echinoderms
- Segmented Worms

Data Sources:

Royal British Columbia Museum

Base Data:

ESRI Base Data, GeoBase, GeoBC,
NOAA, Natural Resources Canada,
USGS, Washington State Government

Thematic Data:

For more information on data sources
and methods please refer to the
facing page to this map

Projection: BC Albers NAD83

0 25 50 75 100 125 150

Kilometres

0 25 50 75

Nautical Miles

1:4,250,000 *

* Written scales are approximate and
are based on a 11 x 17 inch paper size.

Prepared for:



Inset has been provided to illustrate the level of detail available in the data.
s for illustrative purposes only and does not imply any significance