**FISH**

**Platichthys stellatus**

Starry Flounder

This fish’s flat, oval body is studded with small, dark spots. It grows to 1kg in Boundary Bay but larger elsewhere.

**Tidepool Sculpin**

Oligocottus maculosus

The Tidepool Sculpin, a common, well-camouflaged, small fish growing to 9cm long, can tolerate both high temperatures and low salinities. Detect it by its sudden movement.

**Ammodytes personatus**

Pacific Sand Lance

A pencil-thin fish growing up to 28cm, this species is abundant in the intertidal zone. When alive, the flat body has a dark, velvety sheen.

**Neotrypaea californiensis**

Blacktail Shrimp

This shrimp has a smooth, slender body, usually 2-4cm long, and its tail is often black. It is one of many shrimp species found in the Salish Sea.

**Dendraster excentricus**

Eccentric Sand Dollar

This very common inhabitant of kelp forest can grow to 36cm, usually on rocks or mussel beds. From a wasting disease in 2013, it can also be 30cm deep.

**Phascolosomata centrovis**

Lion’s Mane Jelly

The thick gelatinous bell of this jellyfish, up to 40cm wide, and its tentacles are short. It floats near the surface, moving with the current. Dead ones are often washed ashore.

**Axiothella rubrocincta**

Red-banded Bamboo Worm Tubes

These tubes, made of sand grains tightly packed together, are 40cm wide, and their presence is a tell-tale sign of the warm water. It lives in the low intertidal zone in a U-shaped tube that extends above the surface. The burrows can be 30cm deep.

**Aequorea victoria**

Water Jelly

The thick gelatinous bell of this jellyfish has numerous white radial canals, like the spokes of a bicycle wheel. It appears fluorescent when disturbed.

**Tunicata spongosina**

Moonglow Anemone

Found in tidal pools and shelly sand in the upper-to mid-tidal zones of the Pacific Northwest. This species is a flat green algae that grows from rhizomes, underground stems buried in the mud. Eelgrass meadows are highly productive and form vital habitat for many marine creatures.

**Duckweed**

Native Eelgrass

This green, grass-like herb grows up to 1m tall in huge swaths on mud flats. It grows from rhizomes, underground stems buried in the mud. Eelgrass meadows are highly productive and form vital habitat for many marine creatures.

**Nereocystis luetkeana**

Dead Eelgrass

A very large brown seaweed or kelp that attaches to rocks in high-current areas and can drift far from its roots. Together with some Native Eelgrass, it washes ashore in large brown piles at the high-tide level in Boundary Bay.

**Axiothella rubrocincta**

Bull Kelp

A very large brown seaweed or kelp that attaches to rocks in high-current areas and can drift far from its roots. Together with some Native Eelgrass, it washes ashore in large brown piles at the high-tide level in Boundary Bay.

**Phascolosomata centrovis**

Broadleaf Sea Lettuce

This species is a flat green algae that grows on rocks or rocks in shallow water. It often turns or ruffled at the edges, and varies in colour from light green to dark green. It can grow to 36cm long, though it is usually smaller.

**Nereocystis luetkeana**

**Irregular Life in Delta**

Inter tidal Life in Delta

On Roberts Bank, tidal areas are affected by two long causeways that break the freshwater flow from the Fraser River. Intertidal areas along the south shore of the Texaway river-ferry-terminal causeway have some limited access.
CRABS

Dungeness Crab

Hemigrapsus oregonensis
This large crab (male 25cm, female 18cm), named after a port in Washington, can be found at very low tides, when its eelgrass habitat is exposed. As the crab grows, it sheds its outer exoskeleton (shell) and then hardens the new one.

Red Rock Crab

Cancer productus
The Red Rock Crab is similar to the Dungeness Crab but slightly smaller (male 20cm, female 15cm), with a deeper red colour. Adults have black tips to their pinnae; this species has conspicuous patterns and colours.

Yellow Shore Crab

Neopagurus conocephalus
A small crab, at only 5cm wide, this species lives close to the shoreline and can be found under rocks in muddy bays. Colour can vary greatly, especially among juveniles: yellow, brown, grey-green, or red-brown.

Hermit Crab

Pagurus spp.
Hermit crabs live in discarded shells. Very few large shells are available in Delta, so hermit crabs here tend to be small, as they mainly inhabit Mudflat Snail shells. They are found in both intertidal and tidal areas, and tolerate higher temperatures.

MOLLUSCS

Pacific Blue Mussel

Mytilus trossulus
This mussel attaches to rocks by rough byssal threads, and is brown or dark blue. In Delta, mussels are found near the ferry causeway or washed up on Boundary Bay. When crowded, mussels can reposition and coalesce.

Pacific Oyster

Crassostrea gigas
This large oyster (up to 40cm) is an invasive species in Delta. Cockles live just below the surface of the sand, often in eelgrass beds. Their strongly ribbed shells, reaching 14cm long, have scalloped, interlocking outer edges. Look for them at very low tides. They are a traditional food of First Nations.

Purple Mahogany Clam

Macoma balthica
Named for the upturned or bent end to its body, the Mahogany Clam is a native species about 10cm wide and varying in shape much like a police officer’s badge. It can be dark-brown, silver, or silver-brown. It lives mostly on kelp.

Pacific Littleneck Clam

Ruditapes philippinarum
This small clam lives along exposed shorelines. A traditional food of First Nations, this small clam has a chalky, round-to-oval shell, rarely exceeding 1cm wide, with a latticed sculpture of fine ribs and ridges. The shell is white to brown, with dark patches. It lives 10cm deep.

Pacific Littleneck Clam (inside)

This inside of this clam is shown to help with identification, as it is often confused with the Manila Clam (see below)

Rockweed

Fucus distichus
Rockweed is a small, brown, tufted seaweed that attaches to rocks or small stones. It can commonly be seen in small rock pools or washed ashore. The buoyant yellow tips pop like bubble wrap when squeezed!

Staghorn

Codium fragile
Staghorn seaweed grows up to 18cm long. It is found clingng to rocks or in tide pools in low- and mid-tidal areas, and is often washed ashore. Its purple-colour fades when exposed to the sun.

Pea Crab

Amphissa columbiana
Featuring a conical shell with distinct parallel and spiral threads, the Pea Crab grows to 1cm long and can be pink, orange, yellow, or brown. It is a scavenger and can be found on carcasses such as this Dungeness crab (photo).

Butter Clam

Mactra ostricina
A thick, solid species, growing to 15cm long, this clam was the largest of BC’s commercial fishery and a staple food of First Nations. The shell is chalky-greyish white on the outside, with an interior that is smooth and white but not glossy.

Shield Limpet

Lottia pyrum
Shield Limpets grow to 5.5cm wide and live on rocks and help. In Delta they can be found on the Taijnawasen ferry causeway beach. Recent studies show that they take on different forms in different habitats.

Fat Gaper

Atrina mixa
This very large clam has a chalky white shell with a brown coating, sometimes stained black from sulphides in the mud. It grows up to 23cm long and can weigh 1.6-1.8kg. This clam is also known as Horse Clam.

Wrinkled Amphissa

Amphissa sp.
Featuring a conical shell with distinct parallel and spiral threads, the Wrinkled Amphissa grows to 1cm long and can be pink, orange, yellow, or brown. It is a scavenger and can be found on carcasses such as this Dungeness crab (photo).

Soft-shelled Clam

Mya arenaria
This very large, elongated clam (up to 17cm) lives 7-20cm deep and has chalky-white grey shells that are easily broken. It extends siphons to the surface to filter seawater and feed. The shells made by these siphons can be easily seen as water is often expelled.

Baltic Macoma

Macoma baltica
Named for the upturned or bent end to its body, the Baltic Macoma can grow to 15cm and lives in the top 1cm of mud, moving sideways to feed. Its outer shell is white with a thin brown varnish.

Bent-nosed Clam

Mya arenaria
Named for the upturned or bent end to its body, the Bent-nosed Macoma can grow to 15cm and lives in the top 1cm of mud, moving sideways to feed. Its outer shell is white with a thin brown varnish.

INTERTIDAL LIFE

Not all intertidal species are seen in all zones. Intertidal areas in Delta are important habitat for migratory birds, so please keep your dog under control.