

Skagit County

Field Guide to Common Intertidal Seaweeds

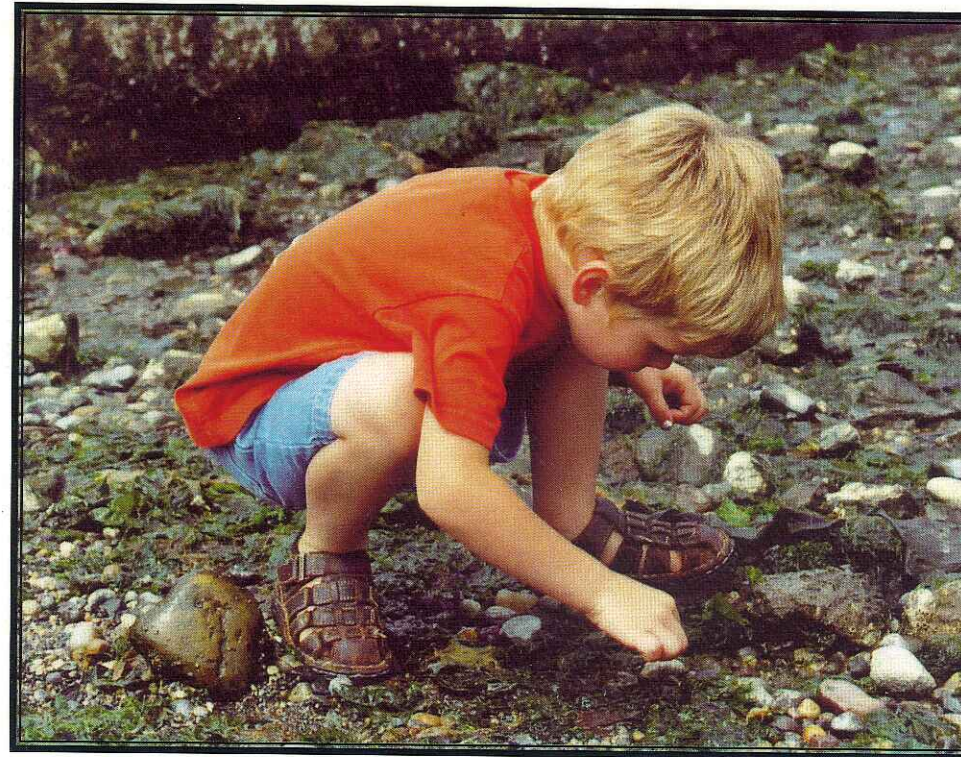
This publication is presented by
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
as an aid to the identification of seaweeds (algae) found in the intertidal zone
of Skagit County and nearby waters.

The Intertidal Zone

The intertidal zone is covered twice a day by the high tides. Numerous organisms inhabit this zone, living in many different environmental situations: between rocks, crevices, sunny exposed areas, shady places, pools of water, sand and mud surfaces. Exposure to sun and dry air alternate with water cover and variations in wave action as the tides run their courses on a daily cyclic basis that varies with season. Newspapers report the current tide levels on the weather page, and annual tide books and calendars are available that list daily tide levels and times.

Beach Visitor Etiquette

Visiting the beach and observing the organisms there is a wonderful experience. One can see a great variety of plants and animals depending on the habitat conditions of different locations. It is best to simply look but not touch live specimens; in fact it may be illegal to collect them. Walk carefully; avoid damaging the marine life. Turning over rocks exposes delicate organisms. Overturn a rock to see what is there, but return the rock carefully to its original position. Try to leave everything as you found it; **take photos – leave only footprints.**

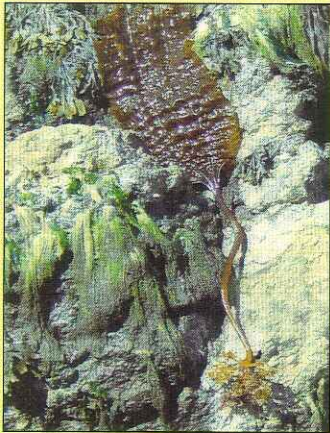


Re-live the thrill of discovery!

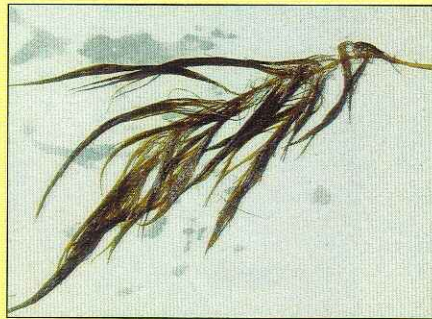
Brown Algae



Alaria marginata



Costaria costata



Desmarestia viridis



Egregia menziesii



Fucus evanescens



Nereocystis luetkeana



Saccharina sessile

Red Algae



Callophyllis edentata



Chondracanthus exasperatus



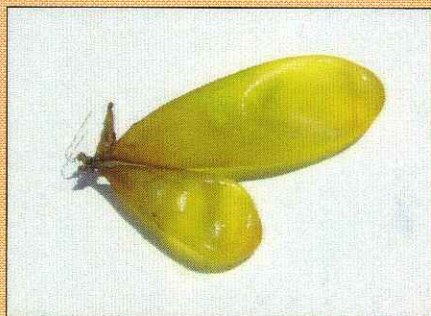
Constantinea subulifera



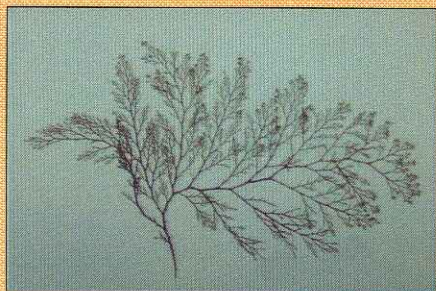
Corallina vancouveriensis



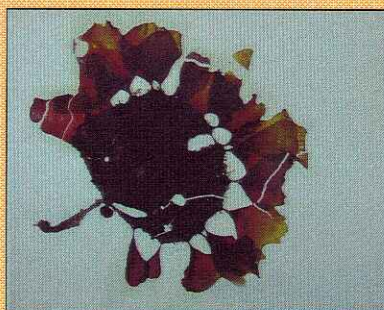
Cryptopleura ruprechtiana



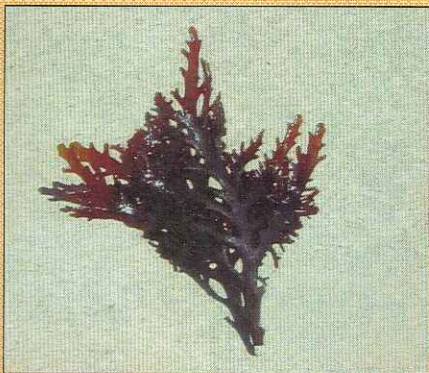
Halosaccion glandiforme



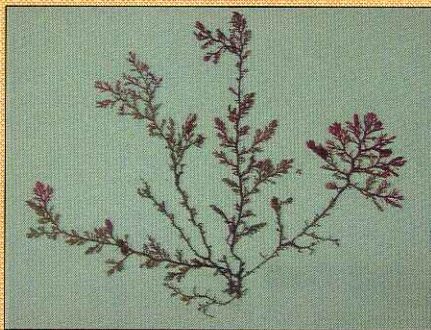
Odonthalia floccosa



Opuntiella californica



Osmundea spectabilis



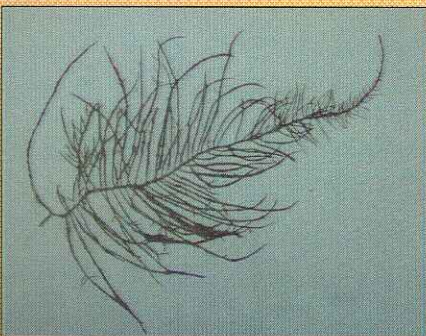
Plocamium pacificum



Porphyra sp



Encrusting red alga on limpet



Sarcodiotheca gaudichaudii

Green Algae



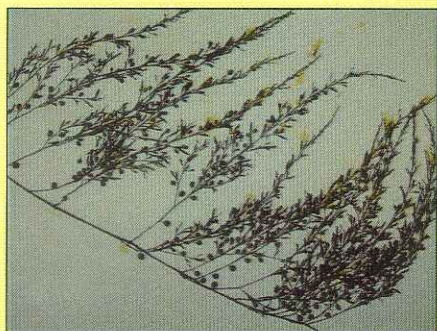
Cladophora sp



Ulva lactuca



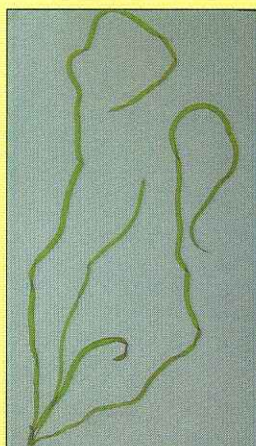
Ulothrix sp



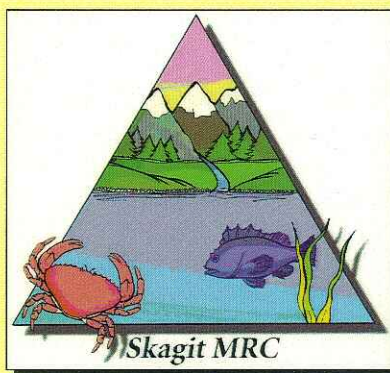
Sargassum muticum



Sargassum muticum



Scytosiphon dotyi



CREDITS

Funding for the preparation and printing of this field guide was provided by the SKAGIT COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (SMRC). Photos were taken by Professor Brian Bingham, Shannon Point Marine Center, (SPMC), and Paul Sund, SMRC. Some of the specimens were collected and pressed by students in the algalogy class at SPMC. Digital processing of the photos was done by Mr. Jim Ramaglia, Chair, SMRC. Professor Gisele Muller-Parker confirmed the identification and nomenclature of the algae; nomenclature is valid as of December, 2006.

More species than are included in this guide are found in the local intertidal zone. Suggested references for further study are:

PACIFIC SEAWEEDS, A Guide to Common Seaweeds of the West Coast. L. Druehl. ISBN 1-55017-240-9.

NORTH PACIFIC SEAWEEDS. R.M. O'CLAIR and S.C. LINDSTROM. Plant Press, c/o General Delivery, Friday Harbor, WA 98250.