












TYPE OF SHELLFISH		DESCRIPTION
Horse clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 8 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval, similar in shape to butter clams.</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Concentric rings on a darkly-colored shell. Dark covering is often partially worn off, showing chalky white. Siphon and mantle cannot be fully retracted inside the shell.</p> <p>DEPTH: 12-16 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Gravel, mud, sand</p> <p>ZONE: Lower intertidal to subtidal.</p>
Pacific littlenecks		<p>SIZE: Up to 2½ inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to round.</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Concentric rings with radiating ridges forms a lattice pattern. Cream/gray colored, but sometimes mottled with brown. White interior of the shell.</p> <p>DEPTH: 4-6 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Gravel, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Normally mid-tide level to lower intertidal. Sometimes subtidal.</p>
Butter clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 5 inches; heavy for size</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to square.</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Prominent concentric rings on a cream or gray shell. No external siphon or mantle.</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, gravel</p> <p>ZONE: Lower intertidal or shallow subtidal (up to 120 feet).</p> <p>WARNING! BUTTER CLAMS RETAIN MARINE BIOTOXINS SUCH AS PSP LONGER THAN OTHER CLAMS</p>
Razor clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 6 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Gaping oblong shell with concentric rings Brown shell</p> <p>Siphon is too large to withdraw into shell DEPTH: 6 inches or more (moves rapidly downward when dug) SUBSTRATE: Sand</p> <p>ZONE: Intertidal coastal (ocean beaches)</p>
Cockles		<p>SIZE: Up to 6 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Round (somewhat triangular)</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Prominent, evenly-spaced ribs radiate from the hinge and extend to the shell margin. Typically light brown colored, but sometimes with lighter colored ribs or with concentric dark bands.</p> <p>DEPTH: 1-2 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Intertidal or subtidal (up to 90 feet)</p>
Macoma clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 3 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to square (to somewhat triangular)</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Wafer-thin, chalky-white shell may be bent at siphon end</p> <p>DEPTH: 4-6 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Middle intertidal zone</p>

TYPE OF SHELLFISH		DESCRIPTION
Blue Mussels		<p>SIZE: Blue mussel up to 3 inches; California mussel up to 6 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Blue-black or brown shell</p> <p>DEPTH: n/a</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Rocks, pilings, boats, gravel, other hard surfaces</p> <p>ZONE: Intertidal</p>
Eastern soft shell clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 4½ inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to square. Often pointed at the siphon end.</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Brittle, thin shells that are mostly chalky white. Brown and yellow skin on the edges. These look very similar to small horse clams, but the siphon can be retracted completely into the body. Concentric rings.</p> <p>DEPTH: 8-14 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Upper half-tide level near river mouths (prefer low salinity).</p>
Geoduck		<p>SIZE: 2 ½ lbs average (shells up to 10 inches)</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Gaping oblong shell with concentric rings. White with flaky brown skin. The siphon and mantle extend far beyond the shell.</p> <p>DEPTH: 2-3 feet</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Mud, sand, gravel</p> <p>ZONE: Subtidal (some intertidal, accessible only on extreme low tides)</p>
Rock Scallops		<p>SIZE: Up to 8 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Fan shaped with two triangular attachments to the hinge.</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Light brown with a reddish or dark brown accents. Strong radial ridges extend from the hinge to the shell's edge.</p> <p>DEPTH: n/a</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Rocks and crevices.</p> <p>ZONE: Low tidal to subtidal.</p>
Pink Scallops		<p>SIZE: Up to 2 ½ inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Fan shaped with two triangular attachments to the hinge.</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Vibrantly pink to cream or light-brown colored. Strong radial ridges extend from the hinge to the shell's edge. Fairly flat shell.</p> <p>DEPTH: n/a</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Soft and hard substrates. Symbiotic with a sponge species that is often found on its shell.</p> <p>ZONE: Low tidal to deeply subtidal (up to 900 feet).</p>

Most images and descriptions courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation.

(<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/>)

(dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/seafood/shellfish_home.html)

This ID chart is available at www.seator.org.