



A Collaborative Project of  
Vancouver Island Literacy Network

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# Under Water Vancouver Island





Bill Sherwood loves to dive in the waters around Vancouver Island. He always sees amazing things. This is a cabezon fish. cabezon fish have very large heads and eleven spines on their dorsal fin.



Underwater on Vancouver Island you may see familiar creatures like this red rock crab. This type of crab has black claw tips.





This California sea lion is speeding past the photographer. The California sea lion is faster than any other sea lion or seal in the world.

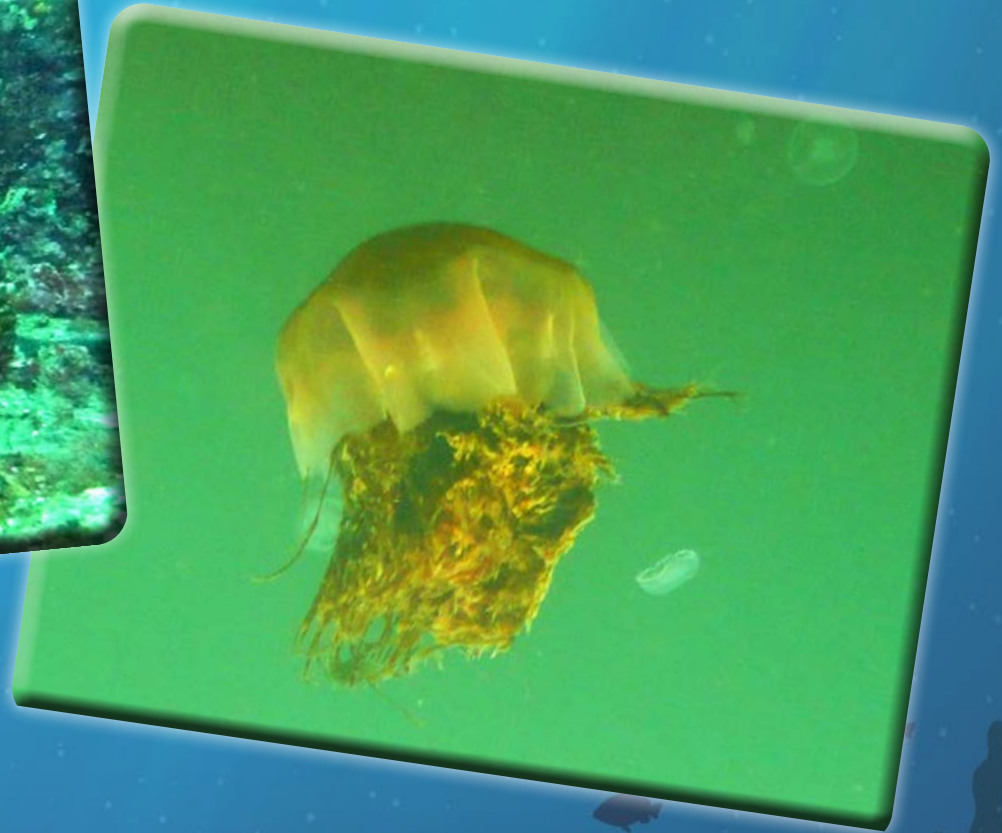


Underwater on Vancouver Island you might see a school of fish like these tubesnout. Tubesnouts are named because of their long snouts.





Look carefully and you might see this camouflaged lingcod. Female lingcod lay their eggs in rocky areas where there are strong currents. Then they swim away. The male guards the eggs until they hatch.



In the salt water that surrounds Vancouver Island you may have seen some jellyfish. But have you ever seen this lion's mane jellyfish? It's also known as a moon jelly.





How would you feel if you saw this giant pacific octopus while you were diving? This octopus grows bigger and lives longer than any other octopus species, but they don't live very long. Most live only four years.



In the darkness under water, keep your eyes open for a colourful sea cucumber. Sea cucumbers have soft bodies even though they have a skeleton below the surface of their body.





This sea creature gets its name from an old fashioned quill pen. It's called an orange sea pen. Can you see why?

The sea pen is actually many separate animals called polyps. These polyps use their tentacles to catch food. Sea pens are anchored to the seabed.



Have you ever seen a clam, oyster, or scallop shell with a hole in it? If you have, it is probably the work of a moon snail. Moon snails use their razor sharp teeth to do this. The snail also releases a liquid to help soften the shell.





Did you know that scallops can swim? They squirt water from inside their shell which pushes them through the water. This helps them from being eaten by other sea creatures.



This sunflower starfish had only 5 or 6 arms when it was young. By the time it was fully grown, its arms multiplied to 15 or 24!

Would you like to go diving on Vancouver Island and see some of these sea creatures?