

TIDE POOL FIELD GUIDE OF SANTA BARBARA



HIGH INTERTIDAL

2.5 - 5 feet above sea level

The high intertidal zone spends the largest amount of time exposed in a day compared to other intertidal zones. They must be able to withstand periodic exposure to air and fluctuations in temperature and salinity. Many species have strong attachment structures to anchor themselves to rocks or other substrates.



Balanus Barnacles



Hermit Crab



Mussels



Sea Lettuce

MEDIUM INTERTIDAL ZONE

sea level - 2.5 feet above sea level

The medium intertidal zone spends the same amount of time submerged and exposed in a day. Organisms that reside here may have adaptations to deal with varying levels of water movement and exposure to sunlight. Here at Derveaux Beach you may find anemones, sea stars, sand crabs, and giant kelp in the mid tide zone.



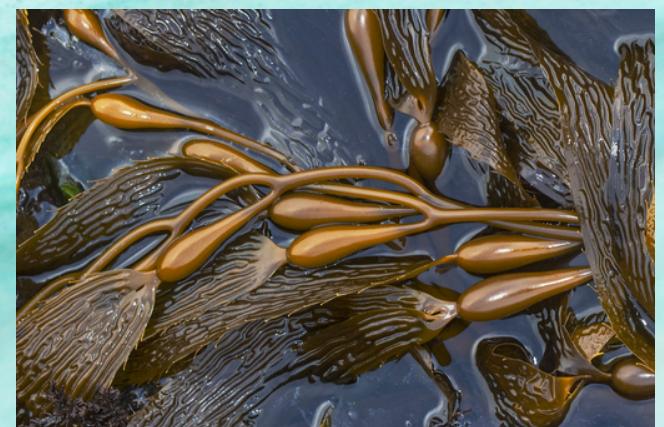
Sunburst Anemone



Ochre Sea Star



Sand Crabs



Giant Kelp Wrack

LOW INTERTIDAL ZONE

At or below sea level

Organisms in the low tide zone are submerged for most of the time and are exposed to air only during extremely low tides. They are adapted to constant immersion and high water flow, as well as exposure to sunlight and air during low tide. Many species have evolved efficient mechanisms for filter feeding or grazing on algae. Here you may see Kelp Crab, Brittle Stars, Spanish Shawls, Two Spotted Octopus.



Kelp Crab



Brittle Stars



Spanish Shawls



Two Spotted Octopus