






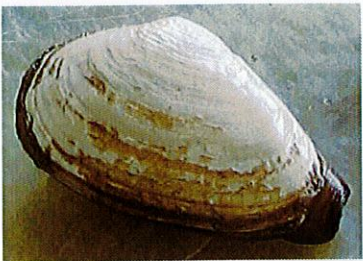






TYPE OF SHELLFISH		DESCRIPTION
Manila clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 3 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong, similar to littleneck</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Concentric rings with radiating ridges forms lattice pattern Typically grey colored, some purple color on the inside</p> <p>DEPTH: 2-4 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Gravel, mud, sand</p> <p>ZONE: Above the half-tide level</p>
Native littlenecks		<p>SIZE: Up to 3½ inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to round</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Concentric rings with radiating ridges forms lattice pattern Cream/grey colored sometimes mottled with brown, white inside</p> <p>DEPTH: 4-6 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Gravel, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Normally mid-tide level; sometimes lower intertidal or subtidal (up to 60 feet)</p>
Butter clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 5 inches; heavy for size</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to square</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Concentric rings Yellow to grey/white colored</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, gravel</p> <p>ZONE: Lower intertidal or shallow subtidal (up to 60 feet)</p> <p>WARNING! BUTTER CLAMS RETAIN MARINE BIOTOXINS SUCH AS PSP LONGER THAN OTHER CLAMS</p>
Varnish clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 3 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval, flat</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Shiny brown coating (purple interior)</p> <p>DEPTH: 1-2 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Gravel, cobble, mud, sand</p> <p>ZONE: Upper one-third of the intertidal zone but can range into lower tidal level; most abundant near freshwater inputs</p> <p>WARNING! VARNISH CLAMS RETAIN MARINE BIOTOXINS SUCH AS PSP LONGER AND AT HIGHER LEVELS THAN OTHER CLAMS</p>
Cockles		<p>SIZE: Up to 5½ inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Round (somewhat triangular)</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Prominent evenly-spaced radiating ribs originate at the hinge and radiate to the outer shell edge Light brown colored</p> <p>DEPTH: 1-2 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Intertidal or subtidal (up to 50-60 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
Horse clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 7 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Chalky-white or yellow, patches of brown skin on shell Shell flares around siphon, does not close Cannot fully retract siphon</p> <p>DEPTH: 12-16 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, mud, gravel</p> <p>ZONE: Lower intertidal (up to 50-60 feet)</p>
Eastern soft shell clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 4½ inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oval to square</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Brittle, thin shells Chalky-white to grey with brown/yellow skin on the edges Rounded at foot, pointed at siphon end Uneven concentric rings</p> <p>DEPTH: 8-14 inches</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand, mud</p> <p>ZONE: Upper half-tide level near river mouths (low salinity)</p>
Geoduck		<p>SIZE: 2 ½ lbs average (shell up to 10 inches)</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Gaping oblong shell with concentric rings White shell with flaky brown skin Siphon and mantle are too large to withdraw into 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>
Razor clams		<p>SIZE: Up to 6 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Gaping oblong shell with concentric rings Brown shell Siphon is too large to withdraw into shell</p> <p>DEPTH: 6 inches or more (moves rapidly downward when dug)</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Sand</p> <p>ZONE: Intertidal coastal (ocean beaches)</p>
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>
Oysters		<p>SIZE: Up to 12 inches</p> <p>SHAPE: Oblong, irregular, wavy edges</p> <p>EXTERNAL: Chalky white or grey</p> <p>DEPTH: n/a</p> <p>SUBSTRATE: Rocky beaches</p> <p>ZONE: Intertidal</p>

Most images and descriptions courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/>)

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This ID chart is available at www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4400/332-087-Shellfish-ID.pdf