



Pocket Field Guide

OREGON  
JELLIES

# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

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Ever wonder what that jelly-like blob on the beach is?  
Want to know how to identify a bloom of jellyfish?

This guide was created to help identify common gelatinous animals encountered at sea or beachcombing. With this guide you can appreciate the diversity of gelatinous animals on the Oregon coast and gain some insight into their natural history.

This guide is not exhaustive and abundances of these organisms are dependent on ocean conditions. Enjoy!

# How to use this guide

## JELLY COMMON NAME

Class

*Scientific name*

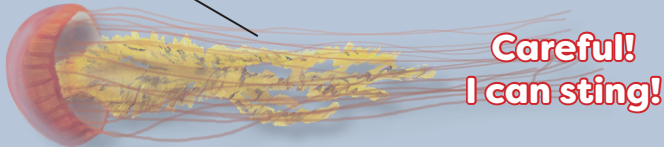
■ Jelly facts



Photograph of jelly  
on the beach



Illustration of jelly  
in the water

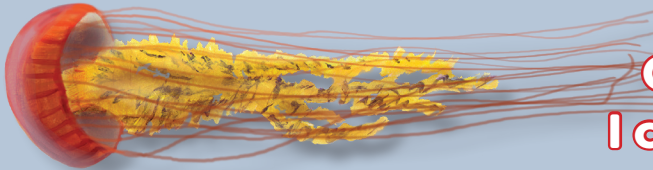


# PACIFIC SEA NETTLE

Scyphozoa

*Chrysaora fuscescens*

- Up to 12 inch bell diameter
- Yellow-brown bell with long, trailing tentacles and oral arms
- Can occur in large, near-shore aggregations, especially in fall months



**Careful!**  
**I can sting!**

- Uses stinging cells to feed on small crustaceans, smaller jellies, and fish eggs

# MOON JELLY

Scyphozoa

*Aurelia labiata*

- Milky white bell with diameter to 15 inches



- Top of bell tinted pink, purple, or brown
- Tentacles fine and numerous. These jellies feed on small crustaceans.

# LION'S MANE JELLY

Scyphozoa

*Cyanea capillata*

- 20 to 70 inch bell diameter
- 8-pointed star shape bell
- Deep red coloring with a messy tangle of long, thin tentacles
- Feeds on small fish and smaller jellies



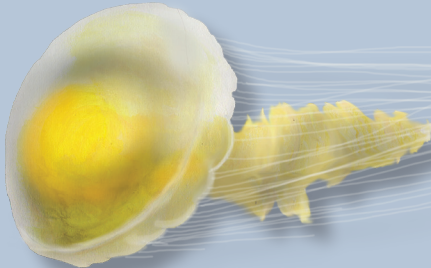
**Careful!**  
**I can sting!**



# EGG YOLK JELLY

Scyphozoa *Phacellophora camtschatica*

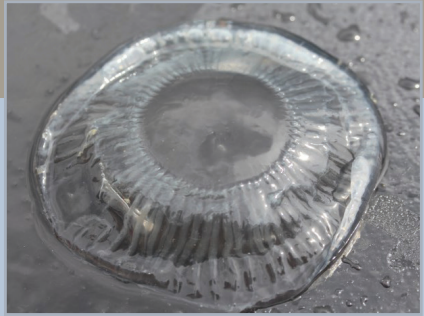
- Bell diameter up to 25 inches
- Top of bell colored yellow
- Oral arms short and folded, with long tentacles that can extend 20 feet
- Feeds on smaller jellies



# CRYSTAL JELLY

Hydrozoa

*Aequorea spp.*



- Bell diameter up to 3 inches
- Colorless, with long, fine tentacles
- Eats soft-bodied prey, including polychaetes and smaller jellies

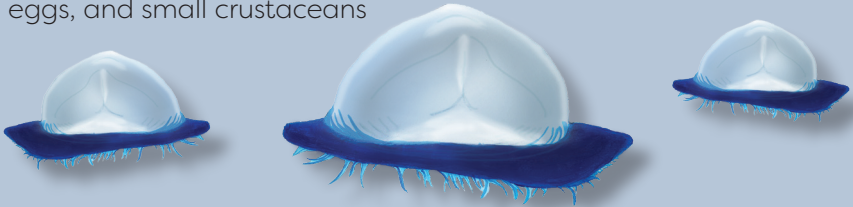


# BY-THE-WIND SAILOR

Hydrozoa

*Vellela vellela*

- Floats at surface using blue float, up to 2 inches, with a clear, triangular sail
- Colony of hydroids floats beneath
- Tentacles hang below blue float to capture fish eggs, invertebrate eggs, and small crustaceans

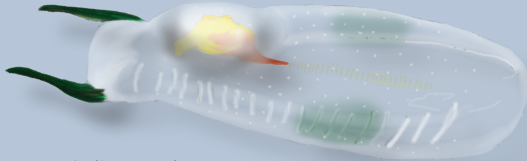


# SALP

Thaliacea

*Thetys vagina*

- The largest individual salps can reach 12 inches
- Salps can occur as solitary individuals or linked in long chains
- Usually barrel-shaped and transparent



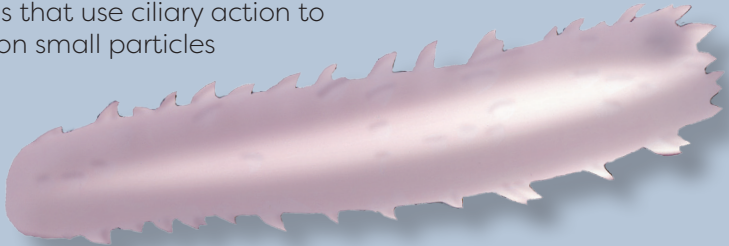
Solitary salp

- Feed on small particles by pumping water across a mucus net using bands of circular muscles

# PYROSOME

Thaliacea     *Pyrosoma atlanticum*

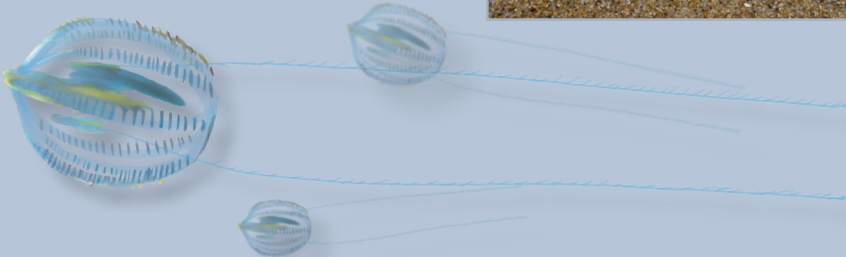
- Colony length up to 20 inches
- Can be pink or grayish in color
- Long, rigid tube with prominent bumps
- The tube is composed of many zooids that use ciliary action to feed on small particles



# COMB JELLY

Ctenophora     *Pleurobrachia bachei*

- Usually less than one inch
- Transparent globe-like body
- Beating of comb rows, or cilia, creates a rainbow pattern
- Feeds on small crustaceans

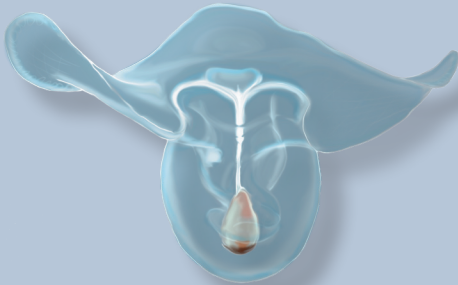


# PTEROPOD

Gastropoda

*Corolla spectabilis*

- Transparent body lacking shell with disc-shaped wings
- Wingspan up to 3 inches



- Creates a mucus sheet, up to 80 inches in diameter, and collects small plankton to eat

# Notes:

Write down your jelly observations

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# Notes:

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Researchers are interested in jelly distributions. If you encounter any jellies, please call our 24-hour hotline to report the location and species you saw.

(541) 236-3059

## Collaborators and sponsors

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Jelly photographs  
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