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**a guide to
oregon's rocky intertidal areas**

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foreword

Oregon's rugged and varied coastline is uniquely fascinating to many people. Historically, Indians lived along the coast and harvested the rich bounty of the intertidal areas as evidenced by extensive shell mounds along many parts of the coast. Today, fishing, clamming, surfing, picnicking, beachcombing, and other pursuits attract thousands of visitors to the coast annually.

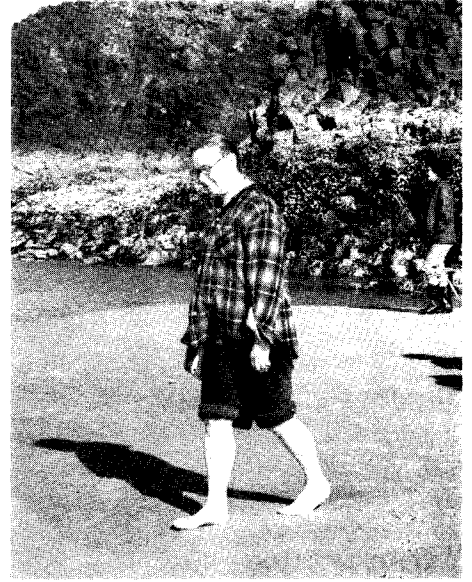
Many people visualize the coast as a sandy beach; however, there are numerous rocky areas along the Oregon Coast. These areas vary from rocks isolated in the sand to headlands jutting out into the sea with surrounding bedrock or boulders. The rocky, intertidal areas have a rich and varied fauna and flora, often unique to a specific habitat or range of environmental conditions. School groups, scientists, and beachcombers find these areas of great interest. As a result, some rocky intertidal areas such as Yaquina Head or Cape Arago, located close to population centers or highways, experience heavy use. This pamphlet focuses attention on a potential overuse and encourages a lessening of pressure on a few areas by pointing out alternate areas available. The pamphlet is also a pictorial guide to the most obvious intertidal invertebrates along Oregon's coast. A summary of regulations protecting intertidal nonfood invertebrates is included. The collector should check the latest synopsis for current information.

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Cover Photo: Sunset Bay, near Cape Arago, along the southern Oregon Coast.
Photographer: Anthony Capone



users

By the late 1950's there was an increasing concern among individuals that the fauna of many of the rocky shore areas was being depleted by excessive collecting. At the request of the Oregon Marine Biological Society and others, the 1961 Legislature gave the Fish Commission of Oregon jurisdiction over all intertidal invertebrates not usually used for food. In 1962, the Commission established regulations governing the harvest of all intertidal, nonfood invertebrates along the Oregon Coast. A daily bag limit was set and collecting by permit only established for certain areas.

Intertidal collecting permits are issued at no charge by the Fish Commission's Newport Laboratory. At the end of the collecting period, permit holders must file a collecting report with the Fish Commission, stating approximate numbers of animals taken, where collected, and for what purpose.

Index groups that can be counted accurately such as starfish, shore crab, and chitons are used to evaluate the relative pressure on different intertidal areas and taxonomic groups.

There are basically five types of users of rocky intertidal areas: (1) clam diggers or fishermen, (2) beachcombers, (3) scientists, (4) commercial collectors, and (5) school groups. The clam digger and fisherman does not usually seek the nonfood animals but may affect them while looking for bait by turning over rocks, digging up the sand, or tearing up mussel or surf grass beds. The casual beachcomber does little damage if he is satisfied by picking up driftwood and shells or in capturing intertidal scenes on film. The exception is the individual who seems to be overcome with a collecting urge and picks up animals without any thought of eventual use and preservation.

Scientists and students working on research projects sometimes take a number of a particular species, but they are usually aware of the danger of overcollecting.

