

Two-Spotted Octopus

Octopus bimaculatus



Description:

Size: body plus longest arm 30" (76 cm) in length

Color: usually gray, brown, olive, or reddish; mottled with black, mantle paler underneath, variable

The Two-Spotted Octopus is pear-shaped, with eight arms. Arms 4–5 times mantle length, with rows of suckers; web between arms. Narrow head with eyes high on the sides of the head; conspicuous black spot below each eye. Mantle with many prickly bumps.

Habitat: in crevices, under rocks, and among kelp; from low tide line to water 49 m deep

Range: Southern California to Baja California, Mexico

Diet: mainly mollusks and crustaceans, some fish

Predators: Moray Eels, Large Fish, and Humans

Notes: The Two-Spotted Octopus has eight arms lined with suction cups that it uses to catch prey. It envelops prey in the web between its arms and releases poison into the water; which passes over the animal's gills and anesthetizes it without the need to bite. The octopus is able to change color quickly, and its flexible body enables it to slip into tiny crevices or between rocks to hide. Color changes are swift and complete, and they can change color according to mood.

Common Squid

Loligo opalescens



Description:

Size: to 28 cm, including tentacles

Color: glossy light gray/white with shadings of pale pink and purple spots

The Common Squid has eight arms lined with suckers and two longer tentacles, with a beaked mouth located in the center of its arms. Its torpedo-shaped body pumps water in and out, causing it to move through the water rapidly.

Habitat: open ocean

Range: British Columbia to Baja California

Diet: shrimp, small fish, polychaete worms

Predators: fish, birds, marine mammals, man

Notes: The common squid is able to change color, and may change from translucent white to deep red or golden brown in mere seconds.