

Softshell Clam

Mya arenaria



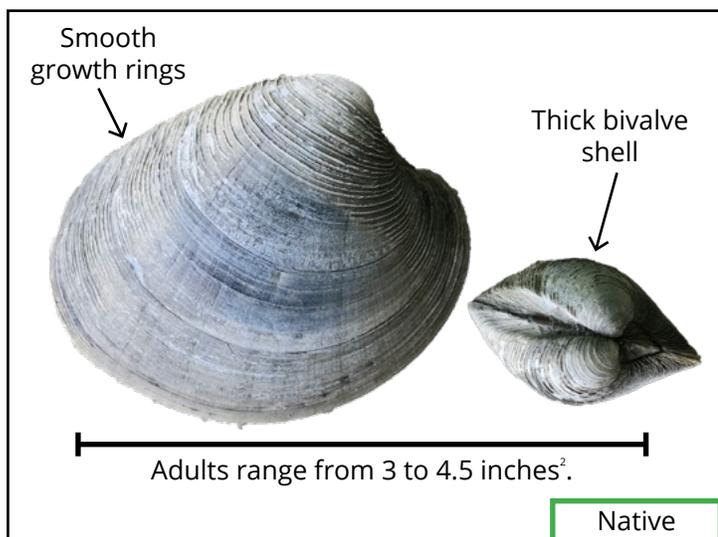
Lives in intertidal zones and buries itself down in mud or sand.



Shell is greyish to straw-colored.



Shape is similar to an oval.



Northern Quahog

Mercenaria mercenaria



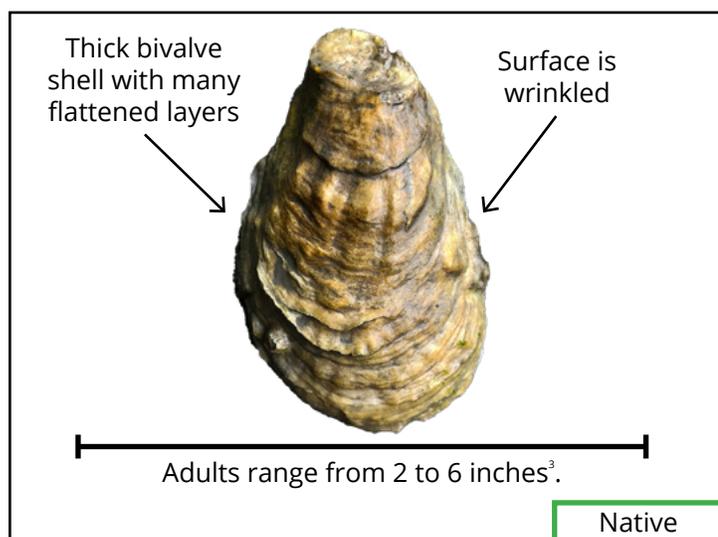
Lives in intertidal and subtidal zones and buries itself down in mud or sand.



Shell is greyish to white in color on its exterior with a purple border on the interior.



Shape is similar to a triangle.



American Oyster

Crassostrea virginica



Lives in estuaries, intertidal, or subtidal zones. Prefers to cement itself on areas with hard rocky substrate or salt marshes.

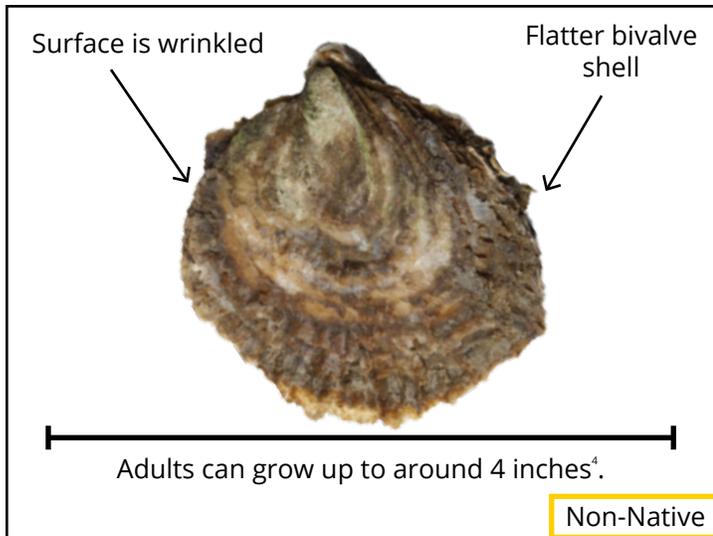


Greyish exterior with a glossy white interior, including a purple scar.



Shape is irregular, but rounded and bent similar to a peanut.

Shellfish Ecological Survey Field Guide



European Oyster

Ostrea edulis



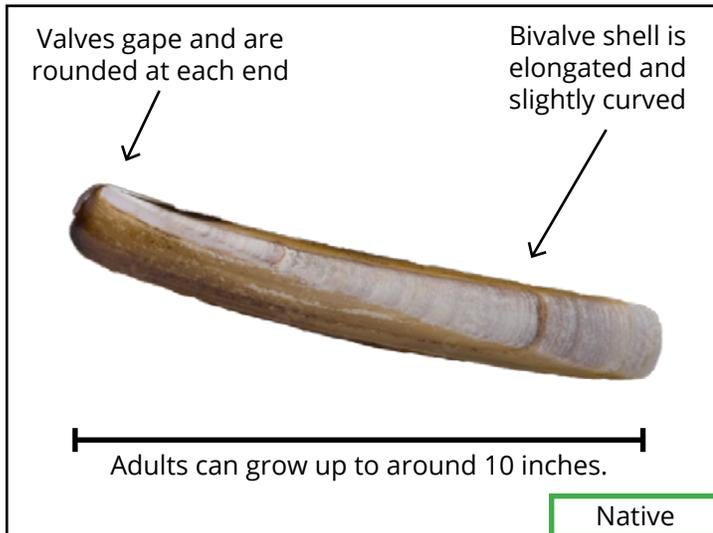
Lives in estuaries, intertidal, or subtidal zones. Prefers to cement itself on areas with hard rocky substrate or salt marshes.



Grayish exterior with a shiny white interior.



Shape is irregular, but close to a circle.



Razor Clam

Ensis directus



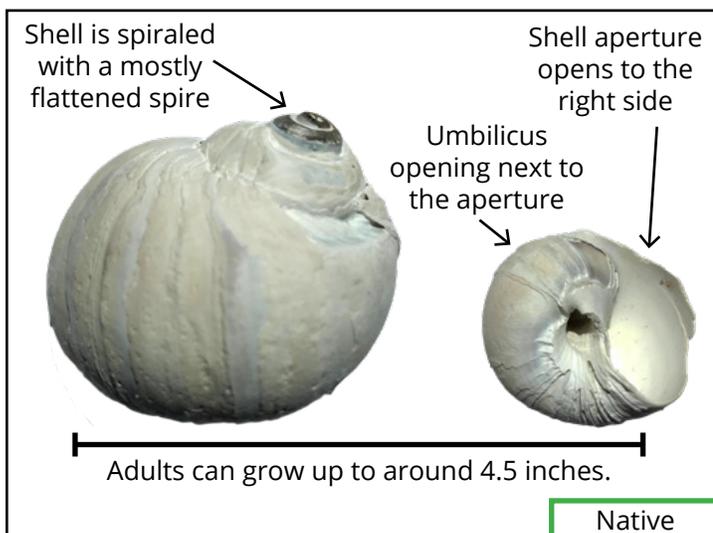
Lives in intertidal and subtidal zones and buries itself down in mud or sand.



White colored with an olive brown coating.



Shape is similar to a slightly curved rectangle.



Northern Moon Snail

Euspira heros



Lives in intertidal zones and burrows into the sand.



Dull white to dirty grey colored.



Shape is similar to a half-circle.

Shellfish Ecological Survey Field Guide

Some other shellfish you might find:

Blue Mussel

Mytilus edulis



Adults can grow up to around 4 inches.

Native

Atlantic Surf Clam

Spisula solidissima



Adults can grow up to around 8 inches.

Native

Atlantic Ribbed Mussel

Geukensia demissa



Adults can grow up to around 4 inches.

Native

Common Periwinkle

Littorina littorea



Adults can grow up to around 1.5 inches.

Non-Native

Atlantic Oyster Drill

Urosalpinx cinerea



Adults can grow up to around 1 inch.

Native^{5,6}

1 WoRMS - World Register of Marine Species. (n.d.) *Mya arenaria* Linnaeus, 1758. Retrieved July 20, 2021, from <https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=140430#notes>
2 WoRMS - World Register of Marine Species. (n.d.) *Mercenaria mercenaria* Linnaeus, 1758. Retrieved July 20, 2021, from <https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=141919#notes>
3 WoRMS - World Register of Marine Species. (n.d.) *Crassostrea virginica* Gmelin, 1791. Retrieved July 20, 2021, from <https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=140657#notes>
4 WoRMS - World Register of Marine Species. (n.d.) *Ostrea edulis* Linnaeus, 1758. Retrieved July 20, 2021, from <https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=140658#attributes>
5 Department of Marine Resources. (n.d.). Shellfish and Snail Identification and Recreational Limits. Shellfish Identification: Maine Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Public Health. <https://www1.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/shellfishidentification.html>
6 Pollock, L. W. (1998). 13. A Practical Guide to the Marine Animals of Northeastern North America. Rutgers University Press.