



Sea Pen

"They look like the feather plume of an old-fashioned pen, a bright orange one, that is."

Scientific name: *Ptilosarcus gurneyi*

Other names: Gurney's sea pen

Phylum: Corals

Size: 18 inches

Description: Pale to bright orange and fleshy, with many feeding polyps on its branches.

Habitat: Sub-tidal, often just below the lowest tide.

Diet: Filter feeders, its feeding polyps capture small animals.

Range: Prince William Sound, Alaska to Southern California

Relatives: Sea anemones.

Conservation Status: Eaten by many things including nudibranchs, sea stars and the diamondback triton.

Fun Facts:

- They can project vertically from the sand or mud, or withdraw completely into it.
- Luminescent: when stroked, can give off a strong greenish light.
- They are actually a colony of smaller animals.