

## Six-Rayed Sea Star



**Scientific name:** *Leptasterias hexactis*

**Phylum:** Echinodermata

**Size:** Less than 4 inches at maturity.

**Description:** Very common but small and inconspicuous. Our only 6-rayed sea star. Tan to greenish gray to black.

**Habitat:** Under rocks and crevasses in the inter-tidal zone. Also turns up in beds of eelgrass.

**Diet:** Feeds on barnacles, limpets, mussels and snails.

**Range:** Alaska to Washington.

**Relatives:** Other sea stars.

**Conservation Status:** not available.

### **Fun Facts:**

☆ In winter groups congregate under rocks to spawn.

☆ Females hump over their golden yellow eggs, cleaning and tending them for up to 2 months without eating. This is our only sea star that broods its young.