

BARNACLE CARE

PURPOSE: To describe methods of care for barnacles.

POLICY: To provide optimum care for all animals.

RESPONSIBILITY: Collector and user of the animals. If these are not the same person, the user takes over responsibility of the animals as soon as the animals have arrived on station.

PROCEDURE: At present there are five barnacle species commonly used at BMSC.

Species:	Acorn barnacle	<i>Balanus glandula</i>
	Acorn barnacle	<i>Chthalamus dalli</i>
	Goose-neck barnacle	<i>Pollicipes polymerus</i>
	Thatched Acorn barnacle	<i>Semibalanus cariosus</i>
	Giant Acorn barnacle	<i>Balanus nubilus</i>

Identification: Refer to Eugene N. Kozloff's book, "Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific Coast" and Gotshall's "Guide to Marine Invertebrates: Alaska to Baja California" for in depth descriptions of individual specimens.

Balanus glandula: Nearly ubiquitous on the Pacific coast. Distinctive feature is the sinuous line that separates the two smaller plates from the larger plates when the animal is inactive. Large animals are 2.0cm in diameter. Whitish-gray in color.

Chthalamus dalli. Strictly limited to rocks, its diameter at the base does not often exceed 5 or 6mm. Easily recognizable by the cross shape formed by the four plates when closed. It is brownish in color.

Pollicipes polymerus : Stalked barnacle found on exposed shores in tight colonies often with the California mussel. The armoured stalks are about 2cm long

Semibalanus cariosus: Heavily ridged casing and black feather-like cirri. It is the only acorn barnacle with a membranous base. Six cm in diameter.

Balanus nubilus: Up to 15cm diameter in size. May be solitary or may aggregate. Has obvious pink cirri.

Sites: Found on exposed rocks at various heights. Sites are found on the shores of the Deer Group Islands, Dixon I., Scott's Bay, off the Blowhole, along Grappler Inlet and at the Harbor mouth across from Aguilar Pt.

Methods: Barnacles can be carried attached to rocks back to the station in small buckets.

Holding: Held in continually flowing seawater. Lids are unnecessary. Gooseneck and giant barnacles need a strong water current to be stimulated to come out and feed.

Feeding: Barnacles are filter feeders and thus only require constantly flowing seawater. However the gooseneck barnacle and the giant barnacle need supplemental feedings of plankton if held for periods longer than 3 weeks as the amount of plankton in the seawater system is not adequate to sustain them for long periods.

Tank Cleaning: Once a week the barnacles should be removed from the tank and placed into a holding bucket. The tanks should be drained and the sides and bottom should be scrubbed and rinsed with warm freshwater. The tanks should then be rinsed with cold seawater and allowed to refill, and the barnacles replaced.

Animal Return: Return to the site of collection.

DAILY ACTIVITIES:

1. Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate.
2. Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked.
3. Check for and remove and dead animals.
4. Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms.
5. Check for and remove and foreign organisms.