

White-Fingered Mud Crab

Family: Xanthidae

Rhithropanopeus harrisi

Description

Size: Up to 1" wide.

Characteristics: Rounded body; small pseudorostrum; well-developed eye-sockets; greatly resembles black-fingered mud crabs and must be observed closely to be identified correctly.

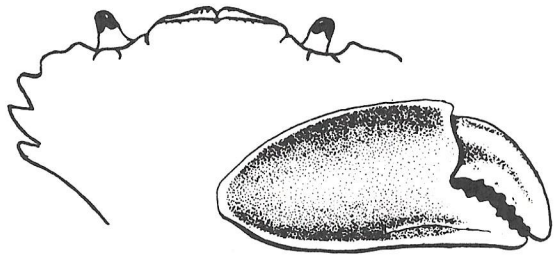
Color: Light tan to medium brown; the claw tips are a lighter color (hence the name "white-fingered").

Habitat

Lives in the intertidal zone under stones or in oyster or clam beds; can be found on any hard surface along the bay and ocean.

Edibility

Inedible



White-fingered Mud Crab

SAND DOLLARS AND STARFISH

Phylum: Echinodermata

The echinoderms are strictly marine animals and most live in shallow water. Their body forms vary but echinoderms usually have a five-part, radial-patterned shape. Their calcareous skeletons and surface spines may also vary. Most echinoderms have contractile tubular feet used in locomotion and feeding and operated by an internal water-vascular system. There is no external difference between male and female organisms. A few species brood eggs that develop without distinct larval forms; other species lay their sperm and eggs in the water and the young undergo a complex metamorphosis. Most echinoderms have the ability to regenerate lost or damaged body parts.

Eastern Common Star (Starfish)

Family: Asteroidea

Asterias forbesi

Description

Size: 5" in diameter; up to 10" across.

Characteristics: Radially-symmetrical with arms that project outward from the center; mouth in the center area on the underside (oral surface); the anus (when present) in the center area on the dorsal side; a large button-like structure (madreporite) at the base of two of the arms; tiny, pincer-like projections on the skin are scattered or clustered; tube feet grow in four distinct rows on the underside of the arms.

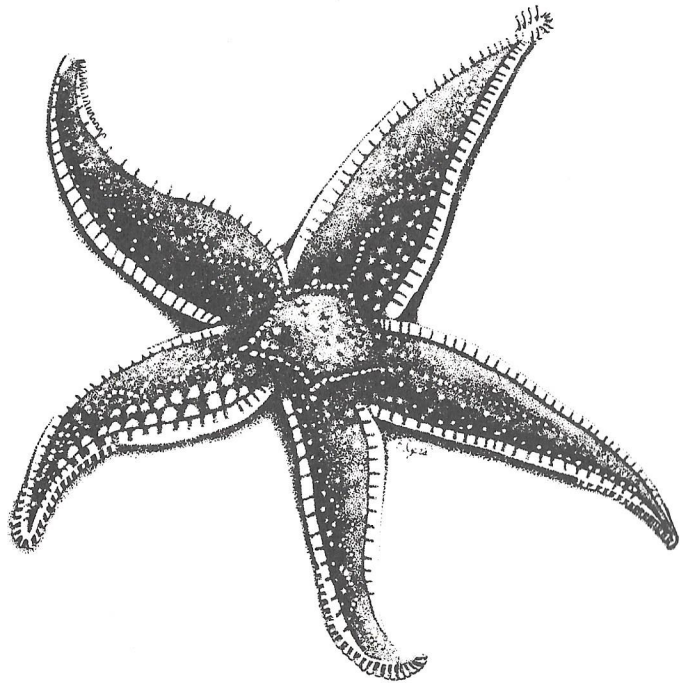
Color: Red to yellow on top; yellowish-white underneath.

Habitat

Lives in coastal waters; most commonly found crawling on groins, submerged rocks, shell beds, sandy or muddy bottoms; common around the bay and ocean regions of Sandy Hook.

Edibility

Inedible



Eastern Common Star

Sand Dollar

Family: Echinodermata

Echinarachnius parma

Description

Size: 3" in diameter

Characteristics: Flat and circular; mouth in the center of the animal; anus is surrounded by five petal-shaped formations of tiny holes; living sand dollars are coated with spines, dead one are usually found on the beach bleached white.

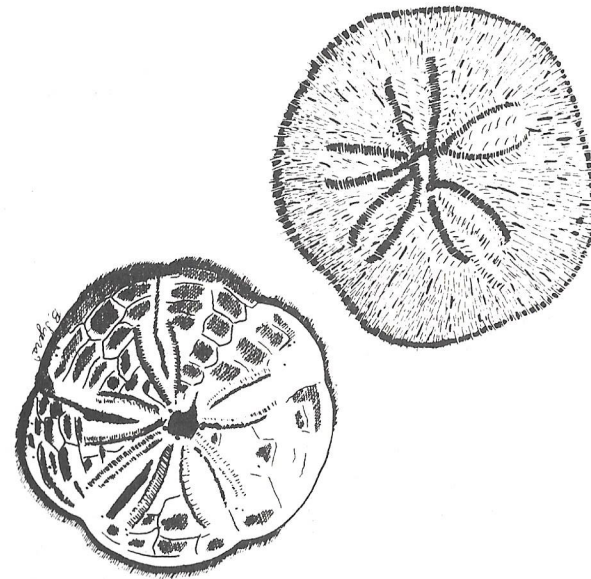
Color: Brown to purple to red

Habitat

Lives on sandy bottoms; commonly found on Sandy Hook's beaches after storms.

Edibility

Inedible



Sand Dollar