Marine Invertebrates & Miscellaneous Organisms

**Clams** – These filter feeders live in the mud of marine and brackish habitats. They feed on microscopic organisms and organic detritus. *(Coral reef; sea grass beds)*

**Corals** – Closely related to sea anemones, corals are actually tiny polyp animals encased in a calcium carbonate "skeleton" they secrete. They feed on microscopic plankton which includes protists and larval invertebrates and fish. Some species contain symbiotic algae that provide them with photosynthetically produced nutrients. *(Coral reef)*

**Diatoms** – The basis of the marine food web, these are photosynthetic algae encased in ornate silica (glass) capsules. There are many different species, each a different shape. *(Freshwater and marine habitats in the upper levels where there's lots of light.)*

**Blue Crab** – A fast-moving crustacean, this animal feeds primarily on organic detritus, but will eat small fish and invertebrates if it can capture them. *(Sea grass, mangroves)*

**Golden Crab** – Another detritivore, this crustacean feeds primarily on organic matter. *(Sea grass beds; mangroves)*

**Octopus** – A stealthy and highly intelligent predator, the octopus feeds largely on marine invertebrates such as snails, mussels, and small arthropods. It will eat fish or larger things if it can catch them, and is not above eating dead organisms, though it prefers them fresh. *(Coral reef, mangroves, sea grass beds)*

**Portuguese Man o' War** – It looks like a "jellyfish," but this cousin of the hydra is actually a colony of individuals, each making up one section of the organism (for example, the bell-shaped "float" is a single individual, as are each of the tentacles). They are pelagic (floating with the moving water) and feed mostly on other pelagic organisms, including fish. *(Floats in open ocean, coastal areas, mangroves, etc.)*

**Rock Shrimp** – A filter-feeding detritivore, the rock shrimp eats microorganisms and organic detritus. *(Coral reef, mangroves, sea grass beds)*

**Scallop** – The scallop, like the clam, filters seawater through its siphons and filters microscopic particles (live microorganisms and dead organic matter) to eat. *(Coral reef)*

**Sea Anemone** – The stinging tentacles of this animal allow it to capture and subdue all types of prey, from mollusks to small arthropods to the occasional unlucky fish. *(Coral reef)*

**Sea Urchin** – Our local species feed primarily on algae, though some urchins are carnivorous. *(Coral reef, mangroves, sea grass beds)*

**Shrimp (striped)** - A filter-feeding detritivore, the striped shrimp eats microorganisms and organic detritus. *(Coral reef, mangroves, sea grass beds)*

**Spiny Lobster** – This detritivore feeds primarily on dead organic matter, though it will eat small arthropods and mollusks if it can catch them. *(Coral reef, mangroves, sea grass beds)*

**Squid** – A fast-swimming predator, the squid feeds mainly on fish. It also will eat small arthropods and mollusks, which it cracks open with its chitinous beak. *(Coral reef, mangroves, sea grass beds)*

**Stone Crab** - Another detritivore, this crustacean feeds primarily on dead organic matter. *(mangroves, sea grass beds)*
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