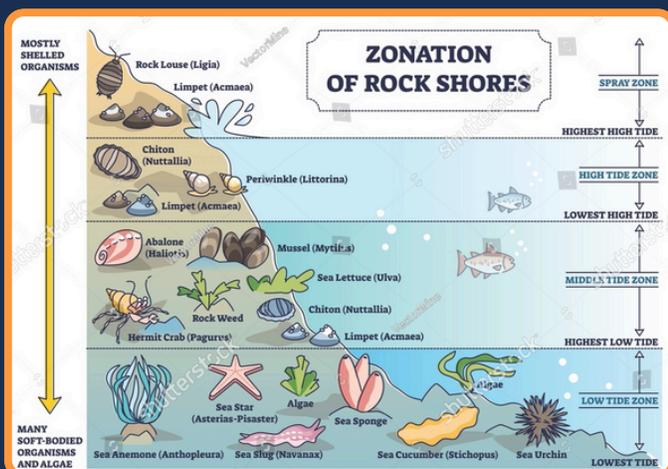


Rocky Reef

Take a look at a local Rocky Reef habitat! This tank is **416** gallons and houses **3** species.

- **California Moray Eel** (*Gymnothorax mordax*)
- **Garibaldi** (*Hypsypops rubicundus*)
- **Sea Star** (*Astropecten polyacanthus*)



Rocky substrates in **intertidal** and **subtidal** zones are home to numerous shelter-seeking species like the California Moray Eels seen here!



California Moray Eels get their color from a yellowish mucus covering that protects their skin. Unlike most fish, they do not have scales or gill coverings. You often see them opening and closing their mouths, which pulls water over their gills and allows them to breathe.

The **Garibaldi** is California's state marine fish! Its bright orange coloring and shiny blue spots make it easy to spot in the kelp forests.

The males in this species are responsible for making egg nests and become extremely aggressive to protect their territories. They even have the ability to make loud thumping noises in their throat to scare off other animals!

