FIDALGO BAY AQUATIC RESERVE
COMMON INFAUNA SPECIES

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(Thanks to Doug Stark and Wendy Steffensen for the original)
What’s squirting us?

Pacific gaper / Horseneck clam

*Tresus capax*

(T. nuttalli is uncommon)
Hard Shell Clams

Heart Cockle, *Clinocardium nuttalli*

Butter Clam, *Saxidomus nuttalli*
Hard Shell Clams

Manila or Japanese Littleneck, *Ruditapes philippinarum* (as of 2010)

Pacific littleneck, *Leukoma (Protothaca) staminea*
Eastern softshell, Mya arenaria

Varnish / mahogany / “savory” clam, Nuttallia obscurata

Macomas & varnish clam

Doug Stark photo
MACOMAS OR “MUD CLAMS”

- Macoma balthica (you should find this one)
- Macoma inquinata
Macoma balthica vs. M. inquinata

- Outline of valves almost perfectly oval; the posterior end nearly as rounded as the anterior end; valves (especially the interior) often yellow, pink, or bluish; length to about 2 cm

Macoma balthica
- Outline of valves not almost perfectly oval, the posterior end being narrowed and less rounded than the anterior end; valves whitish, except for the brown periostracum; length up to about 5 cm

Macoma inquinata
Macoma iquininata vs. M. nasuta (bentnose)

- Macoma inquininata
- Macoma nasuta (bent nose clam)
What is eating those clams?

Often find clam shells with a hole

- Moon snails burrow to find and prey on clams
- Considered epifauna, but are found under the sediment surface
WORMS

• Two most common are nemerteans and errantia [free-living] polychaetes.
• May encounter sipunculids and even an echiuran (see ID Guides)
Ophiuroidea (brittle stars)

- Two species possible:
  - 1. *Amphipholis squamata*
  - 2. *Amphiodia urtica/periercta/occidentalis* complex

Note differences in relative arm length and appearance of disk
Jingle shell oyster / Green false jingle
Pododesmus macrochisa
Not infauna, but attached to sides and under rocks