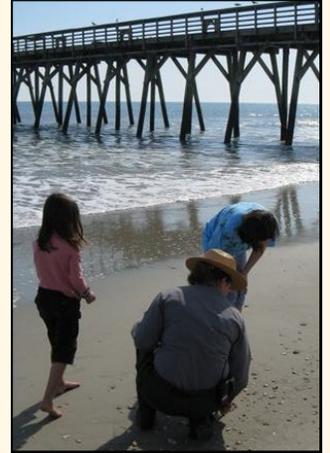


# Myrtle Beach State Park Beachcombing Guide

The following pages are designed to help you identify some of the *common* beachcombing treasures found at Myrtle Beach State Park. Many other species of marine life may be found that are not included in this guide.



## Beachcombing Tips:

\*Never take live animals— return them safely back into the water. Always protect our precious marine resources for the future!

\*If you find a snail shell, you can tell it's alive if something is still in there. The shell will keep growing as the snail grows. The snail will **not** and cannot move to a new shell!



\*The best time to go beachcombing is around low tide and after storms. The best places to look are at the waters edge and the wrack line or high tide line.

\*Myrtle Beach and Huntington Beach State Parks can be great places to go beachcombing.

\*Remember to always use a boardwalk or designated path to reach the beach and always stay off the sand dunes.



# Bivalves– “two shells”



**Ponderous Ark–** *Noetia ponderosa*



**Common Jingle–** *Anomia simplex*



**Eastern Oyster**  
*Crassostrea virginica*



**Cross-barred Venus Clam**  
*Chione cancellata*



**Atlantic Wing Oyster**  
*Pteria colymbus*



**Atlantic Jackknife/  
Razor Clam**  
*Ensis directus*

**Shells can be divided into two main groups:**

## **Bivalves & Gastropods (Univalves)**

Bivalves, such as oysters and clams, have two shell sections connected by a hinge. When the bivalves die, the two shells usually break apart from each other.

Gastropods, such as whelks and moon snails, have a single shell that usually grows in a spiral.

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# Bivalves– “two shells”



**Sawtooth Penshell–** *Atrina serrata*  
**Stiff Penshell–** *Atrina rigida* (right photo)



**Mussels–** different species



**Calico Scallop**  
*Argopecten gibbus*



**Cockle Shells**  
different species



**Northern Quahog**  
*Mercenaria mercenaria*



**Coquina Clams–** *Donax variabilis*



**Live Coquina Clams:**  
All live shells should always be returned to the ocean. Help protect our precious ocean resources!

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# Gastropods– “stomach foot”



**Lettered Olive**  
SC State Seashell  
*Oliva sayana*



**Atlantic Slipper Snail**  
*Crepidula fornicata*

Myrtle Beach State Park



**Atlantic Auger**  
*Terebra dislocata*  
This is a picture of a live auger. Always release live shells!



**Baby's Ear**  
*Sinum perspectivum*



**Atlantic Moon Snail–** *Neverita duplicata*  
The small hole was drilled by another moon snail. They do this when capturing their prey. Look for a single perfect hole made by a moon snail in other shells.



**Sand Collar**  
moon snail egg case

**Banded Tulip**  
*Fasciolaria hunteria*



# Gastropods– “stomach foot”



**Cayenne Keyhole Limpet- *Diodora cayenensis***



**Florida Horse Conch  
*Pleuroploca gigantea*  
This is not a true conch!**



**Channeled Whelk  
*Busycon canaliculata***



**Whelk Egg Case**



Opening  
on right

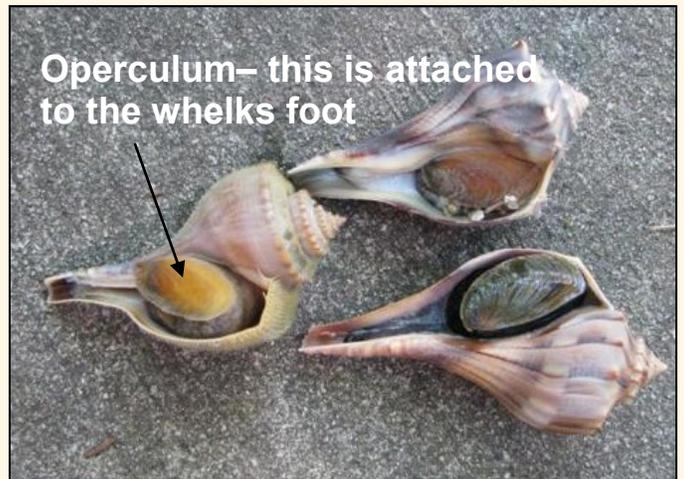
**Knobbed Whelk– *Busycon carica***



Opening on left

**Live whelks (right picture) cannot survive long periods of time out of the ocean. Please return any live shells back**

**Lightning Whelk– *Busycon sinistrum***



Operculum– this is attached to the whelks foot

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# Other Common Beachcombing Finds



**Barnacles and Mussels on Pier Pilings**



**Mole Crab**  
*Emerita talpoida*



**Horseshoe Crab**  
*Limulus polyphemus*



**Ghost Crab— *Ocypode quadrata***  
This crab lives in burrows along the beach. Please do not disturb their burrow!

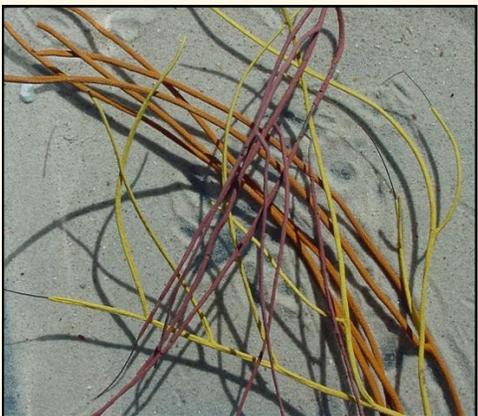


**Coral**

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**Cannonball Jelly— *Stomolophus meleagris***  
**Spider Crab— *Libinia spp.***



**Sea Whips (Soft Coral)**  
*Leptogorgia virgulata*

# Other Common Beachcombing Finds



**Purple Sea Urchin (live)**  
*Arbacia punctulata*



**Parchment Tube Worm (dead)**  
*Chaetopterus variopedatus*



**Sponge (dead)**



**Sponge (live)**



**Codium- *Codium spp***  
Green Algae



**Sargasso Seaweed**  
*Sargassum spp*



**Serpulid Tube Worms on a dead  
Keyhole Urchin (*Mellita quinquesperforata*)**



**Sea Pork (dead)**

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