

Building an Underwater Forest Home for a Large Ocean Family

The Wheeler North Giant Kelp reef is home to more than 50 types of fish and invertebrates. Here are a few examples.

The clawless **Spiny Lobster** (*Panulirus argus*) has a spine-studded shell and long antennae but no large front claws. One of the ocean's mysteries is the "lobster march." Hundreds of spiny lobsters form columns of as many as 60 lobsters and march together from area to another.



The **Kelp Crab** (*Pugettia producta*) has a shield-shaped piece on its back. These crabs eat kelp. The color of the crab changes depending upon what the crab is eating.

Barred Surfperch (*Amphistichus*) have bronze or brassy bars on the side. They put up a fight when hooked and are considered a tasty catch.



The **Sheepshead fish** (*Archosargus probatocephalus*) grows to as much as 30 inches and has sharp spines along its dorsal or main fin. The Sheepshead's diet includes sea urchins that feed on kelp – an example of the food chain created by a kelp forest.

