

Tunicate (solitary) - *Halocynthia aurantium*

DESCRIPTION	A large, solitary tunicate with a barrel shaped body that is directly attached to the substrate. Two uneven large siphons on top. Tunic can be smooth or slightly wrinkled. Often found in groups.
RANGE	Occurs from the Arctic, throughout the Bering Sea, and south to Puget Sound. Common north of the Alaska Peninsula. the SE Bering, NE Bering, and SE Chukchi Seas.
SIZE	<18 cm
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Bright orange-red, often unfouled and may appear shiny. Looks like a peach.
HABITAT	Attaches to rocks. Often seen washed up on beach or comes up on hooks when fishing for bottom fish.
TIDAL HEIGHT	0 to 100 m deep. Most common in depths of 40-100 m in the SE Bering, NE Bering, and SE Chukchi Seas.
SALINITY	28.0-33.3 ppt Seldovia, AK station
TEMPERATURE	0-12.4 °C Seldovia, AK station
SIMILAR SPECIES	<i>Cnemidocarpa finlandiensis</i> is similar in color and has the same smooth tunic, and can look the same out of water, but it is much more broad and squat. There is another species in the same genus in Alaska, <i>H. hispida</i> (previously <i>hilgendorfi</i> or <i>igabajo</i>), but the latter is tan and covered with spines.
OTHER FACTS	Another tunicate in this family is cultivated for human consumption in Japan and Korea. The tunic is removed before it is eaten. Along Alaskan coasts they are prey to predatory snails, nudibranchs, sharks and skates, crab, sea stars and bottom fish.



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