

Tunicate (solitary) - *Molgula pacifica*

DESCRIPTION	small, grape-like tunicate with one siphon (atrial) extending upwards about twice as high as the the other, often covered with debris. Siphons appear orange.
RANGE	Alaska and Washington
SIZE	Body length to 2.5cm
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Clear, with 's' shaped intestine visible through the body wall, though body often covered with foreign materials, including algae. Siphons are pink to orange
HABITAT	Attaches to firm substrates, rocks intertidally. In harbor; floats, ropes. One of the most common species in Arctic waters.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Low intertidal and sub tidal to offshore
SALINITY	
TEMPERATURE	
SIMILAR SPECIES	Unlike <i>Ascidia</i> which is attached on its side, <i>Molgulas</i> are attached at the base. All <i>Molgulids</i> have 6 lobes on the oral siphons and 4 lobes on the atrial siphon, whereas <i>Ascidia</i> spp have the same number of lobes on both siphons. Differs from other <i>Molgula</i> species in the orange siphons, one twice as long as the other, and the often accessive amount of debris attached to the body. It is a free spawner, it does not brood, and the embryos develop directly so there is no tadpole larvae.



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