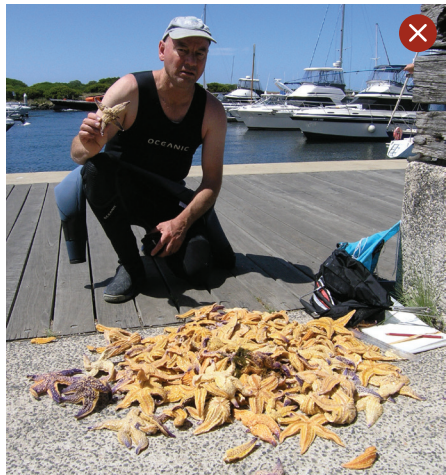


Parks Victoria staff help to control pests at Popes Eye,
Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park



Below: Ranger, Chris Hayward, with seastars removed
in a single dive from Popes Eye.

Cover: Marine Summer Ranger, Shannon Hurley,
removes a seastar at Popes Eye.

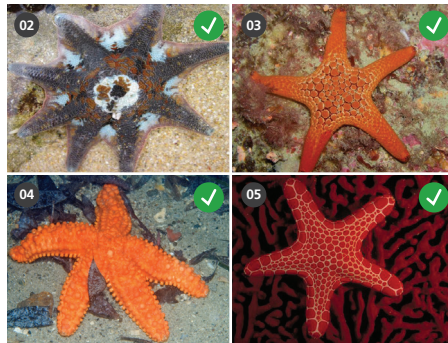
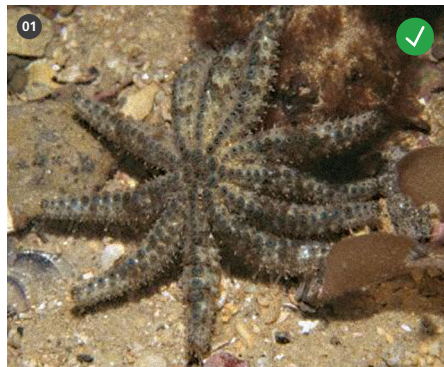


What about native seastars?



Seastars are an important part of Victoria's
diverse marine environments. One of these, the
Eleven-armed Seastar, is a known predator of the
introduced Northern Pacific Seastar and removing
these gives pests a better chance of surviving.

The following seastars can be found in the
Port Phillip region:



- 01 Eleven-armed Seastar (*Coscinasterias muricata*)
- 02 Common Seastar (*Patiriella calcar*)
- 03 Ocellate Seastar (*Nectria ocellata*)
- 04 Granular Seastar (*Uniophora granifera*)
- 05 Vermillion Seastar (*Pentagonaster dubeni*)

Images: Parks Victoria, Museum Victoria, Fisheries Victoria,
Saspotato, Mary Malloy, Mark Rodrigue.

T: 13 1963 **W:** www.parks.vic.gov.au

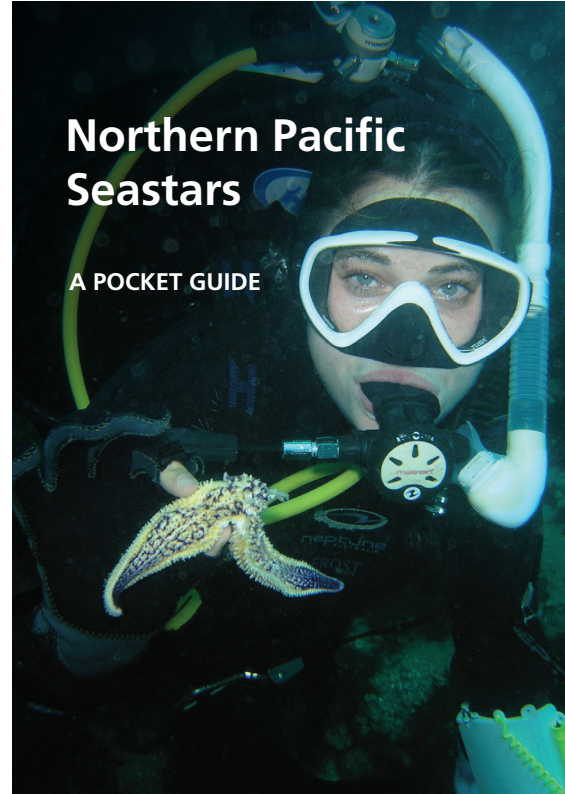


Healthy Parks
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Northern Pacific Seastars

A POCKET GUIDE



What do they look like?



The Northern Pacific Seastar (*Asterias amurensis*) is easily identified by the following features:

- Five broad arms with pointed tips that are often upturned.
- Variable in colour on the upper surface from yellow to purple, while the underside is a uniform yellow.
- Irregularly arranged spines on upper surface of arms.
- On the underside of the body spines line the groove in which the tube feet lie.
- 1.5 to 50cm in diameter.

What's the threat?



The introduced Northern Pacific Seastar is a highly voracious predator that feeds on a wide variety of native marine species including bivalves such as pippies and mussels, other molluscs, crabs, and barnacles. They can also feed on fish eggs and have been linked to the decline of rare fish species in Tasmania.

The Northern Pacific Seastar has few known predators in Victoria, reproduces very quickly, and can rapidly spread to new areas.

A single female seastar can produce 15 – 25 million microscopic eggs per season. These eggs can survive and spread in the water for up to 120 days and only take one year to become new adults.

Seastars can also regenerate body parts so damaged or chopped in half seastars can become new animals.

What should I do if I see one?



Northern Pacific Seastars are widespread in Port Phillip and have also recently been found at Tidal River (Wilson's Promontory) and Western Port. Sightings of suspected Northern Pacific Seastars outside of Port Phillip should be reported to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Customer Service Centre on **136 186**.

They are listed 'noxious aquatic species' under the Fisheries Act and as such require a permit for removal. Parks Victoria staff and a number of Licensed Tour Operators have permits for removal from protected areas such as Popes Eye in the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park.

Because of the similarities between Northern Pacific Seastars and a number of native seastars, pest seastars should only be removed under the direction of permit holders after positive identification.

What can I do?



Marine pests are spread by both natural means and with human help.

To help prevent the spread of marine pests including Northern Pacific Seastars:

- Use fresh water to thoroughly wash down boats, other watercraft, fishing gear, wetsuits, and other marine equipment, after use.
- Dry boats and marine equipment properly before moving to other areas.
- Be particularly vigilant when moving boats or equipment from Port Phillip to any other part of Victoria.
- Apply appropriate anti-fouling paints to boat hulls as per instructions for use.

For more information on marine pests visit: www.depi.vic.gov.au/marinepests