

2009 Florida 4-H State Marine Ecology Event

Marine Organisms Identification List

JUNIORS (8-10 years old)

NOTE: Youth will NOT need to know any scientific names. Scientific names are given only to make sure youth study the right organism since many may have multiple common names. For the contest, youth will need to properly identify these organisms. Refer to the Companion Guide for ways each can be identified. Whenever possible try to study real specimens and not just the Species Identification Guide CD, since photos may not always show important distinguishing features.

There are 125 specimens for Juniors to know. Good Luck!

Section 1: Marine and Coastal Plant Identification (25)

Algae (3)

Sea lettuce
Sargassum weed
Red algae

Scientific name

Ulva lactuca
Sargassum sp.
Gracilaria sp.

Notes on natural history, habitat, features

Seagrasses (2)

Manatee grass
Turtle grass

Syringodium filiforme
Thalassia testudinum

Marsh plants (9)

Sawgrass
Smooth cord grass
Salt meadow cord grass
Needle rush
Southern glasswort
Sea oxeye or Sea daisy
Red mangrove

Cladium jamaicense
Spartina alterniflora
Spartina patens
Juncus roemerianus
Salicornia virginica
Borrichia frutescens
Rhizophora mangle

Black mangrove
White mangrove

Avicennia germinans
Laguncularia racemosa

Beach plants (9)

Sea oats
Railroad vine
Sea Grape
Sea purslane
Firewheel or Indian blanket
Dune Sunflower
Prickly pear cactus
Cabbage palm
Sand Bur or sandspur

Uniola paniculata
Ipomoea pes-caprae
Coccoloba uvifera
Sesuvium portulacastrum
Gaillardia pulchella
Helianthus debilis
Opuntia compressa
Sabal palmetto
Cenchrus tribuloides

Introduced coastal plants (2)

Australian pine
Brazilian pepper

Casuarina spp.
Schinus terebinthifolius

Section 2: Marine and Coastal Invertebrates Identification (50)

Poriferans (sponges) (3)

Tube sponge
Basket sponge
Sheepswool sponge

Scientific Name
Callyspongia sp.
Hircinia canaliculated
Hippospongia lachne

Notes on natural history, habitat, features

Cnidarians (8)

Portuguese Man-o-War
Common (moon) jellyfish
Sea whip
Sea fan
Giant (pink-tipped) sea anemone
Brain coral

Physalia physalis
Aurelia Aurelia
Leptogorgia sp
Gorgonia sp.
Condylactus gigantea
Diploria labyrinthiformis

Mud crab
 Ghost crab
 Arrow crab
 Fiddler crab
 Atlantic mole crab or sand flea
 White shrimp
 Spiny lobster

Panopeus sp.
Ocypode quadrata
Stenorhynchus seticornis
Uca sp.
Emerita talpoida
Penaeus setiferus
Panulirus argus

Echinoderms (6)

Variiegated urchin
 Pencil urchin
 Keyhole sand dollar
 Common sea star
 Brittle star
 Sea cucumber

Lytechinus sp.
Cidaris tribuloides
Mellita quinquiesperforata
Echinaster sp.
Ophionereis reticulate
Pentacta pigmaea

Tunicates (sea squirts) (1)

Leathery sea squirt

Styela plicata

Section 3: Marine and Coastal Vertebrates Identification (50)

Fishes (27)

Southern stingray
 Bonnethead shark
 Nurse shark
 Sheepshead porgy
 Pinfish
 Atlantic croaker
 Spotted seatrout
 Striped burrfish
 Toadfish
 Mullet

Scientific Name
Dasyatis Sabina
Sphyrna tiburo
Ginglymostoma cirratum
Archosargus probatocephalus
Lagodon rhomboids
Micropogonias undulates
Cynoscion nebulosus
Chilomycterus schoepfi
Opsanus beta
Mugil cephalus

Notes on natural history, habitat, features

Laughing gull
Ring-billed gull
Bald eagle
Osprey
Black skimmer
American oystercatcher
Redwing blackbird
Wood stork

Larus atricilla
Larus delawarensis
Haliaeetus leucocephalus
Pandion haliaetus
Rynchops niger
Haematopus palliatus
Agelaius phoeniceus
Mycteria Americana

Mammals (3)

Manatee
Bottlenose dolphin
Humpback whale

Trichechus manatus
Tursiops truncatus
Megaptera novaeangliae
