

# Florida 4-H State Marine Ecology Event

## Marine Organisms Identification List *(Revised 2014)*

### INTERMEDIATES (11-13) AND SENIORS (14-18)

NOTE: Youth do 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 correctly identify these organisms. Refer to the Companion Guide for ways each can be identified. If possible, try to study real specimens and not just the photos in the Species Identification Guide CD. Photos may not always show important distinguishing features. **NEW species (or corrected species) are highlighted in yellow.**

There are **223** specimens listed. **Good Luck!**

### Section 1: Marine and Coastal Plant Identification (44)

#### Algae (8)

	Scientific name	Notes on natural history, habitat, features
Sea lettuce	<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	_____
Dead man's fingers	<i>Codium</i> sp.	_____
Sand moss	<i>Caulerpa</i> sp.	_____
Disc algae	<i>Halimeda</i> sp.	_____
Shaving brush algae	<i>Penicillus capitatus</i>	_____
Petticoat algae	<i>Padina</i> sp.	_____
Sargassum weed	<i>Sargassum</i> sp.	_____
Red algae	<i>Gracilaria</i> sp.	_____

#### Seagrasses (4)

Shoal grass	<i>Halodule wrightii</i>	_____
Manatee grass	<i>Syringodium filiforme</i>	_____
Turtle grass	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>	_____
Widgeon grass	<i>Ruppia maritime</i>	_____

#### Marsh plants (13)

Sawgrass	<i>Cladium jamaicense</i>	_____
Smooth cord grass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	_____
Salt meadow cord grass	<i>Spartina patens</i>	_____
Needle rush	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	_____
Southern glasswort	<i>Salicornia virginica</i>	_____

Saltwort  
Spike grass  
Sea oxeye or Sea daisy  
Sea lavender  
Red mangrove  
Black mangrove  
White mangrove  
Buttonwood

*Batis maritima*  
*Distichlis spicata*  
*Borrchia frutescens*  
*Limonium carolinianum*  
*Rhizophora mangle*  
*Avicennia germinans*  
*Laguncularia racemosa*  
*Conocarpus erectus*

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**Beach plants (16)**

Sea oats  
Dune panic grass  
**Seaside goldenrod (NEW!)**  
Railroad vine  
Beach morning glory  
Sea Grape  
Sea purslane  
Firewheel or Indian blanket  
Dune Sunflower  
Bay bean or Beach pea  
Marsh elder  
Prickly pear cactus  
Beach pennywort  
**Saw palmetto (NEW!)**  
Cabbage palm  
Sand Bur or sandspur

*Uniola paniculata*  
*Panicum amarulum*  
***Solidago sempervirens***  
*Ipomoea pes-caprae*  
*Ipomoea imperati*  
*Coccoloba uvifera*  
*Sesuvium portulacastrum*  
*Gaillardia pulchella*  
*Helianthus debilis*  
*Canavalia maritima*  
*Iva frutescens*  
*Opuntia compressa*  
*Hydrocotyle bonariensis*  
***Serenoa repens***  
*Sabal palmetto*  
*Cenchrus tribuloides*

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**Introduced coastal plants (3)**

Paper bark tree  
Australian pine  
Brazilian pepper

*Melaleuca quinquenervia*  
*Casuarina spp.*  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*

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## Section 2: Marine and Coastal Invertebrates Identification (81)

### Poriferans (sponges) (4)

- Tube sponge
- Loggerhead sponge
- Basket sponge
- Sheepswool sponge

### Scientific Name

- Callyspongia sp.*
- Spherospongia vesparium*
- Hircinia canaliculated*
- Hippospongia lachne*

### Notes on natural history, habitat, features

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### Cnidarians (13)

- Portuguese Man-o-War
- Common (moon) jellyfish
- Cannonball jellyfish
- Upside down jellyfish
- Sea whip
- Sea fan
- Giant (pink-tipped) sea anemone
- Brown sea anemone
- Large star coral
- Brain coral
- Elkhorn coral
- Staghorn coral
- Fire coral

- Physalia physalis*
- Aurelia Aurelia*
- Stomolophus meleagris*
- Cassiopeia xamachana*
- Leptogorgia sp*
- Gorgonia sp.*
- Condylactus gigantea*
- Aiptasia pallida*
- Montastraea cavernosa*
- Diploria labyrinthiformis*
- Acropora palmate*
- Acropora cervicornis*
- Millepora alcicornis*

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### Ctenophores (1)

- Comb jelly

- Mnemiopsis sp.*

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### Annelid worms (2)

- Fire or Bristle worms
- Christmas tree worm

- Hermodice sp. or Eurythoe sp.*
- Spirobranchus giganteus*

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### Molluscs (27)

- Chiton
- Limpet
- Tusk shell
- Slipper shell
- Bay scallop
- Atlantic ribbed mussel

- Dentalium sp.*
- Crepidula sp.*
- Aequipecten irradians*
- Geukensia demissa*

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Pen shell	<i>Atrina rigida</i>	_____
Eastern oyster	<i>Crassostrea virginica</i>	_____
Quahog	<i>Mercenaria sp.</i>	_____
Sunray venus	<i>Macrocallista nimbosa</i>	_____
Giant Atlantic cockle	<i>Dinocardium robustum</i>	_____
Coquina clam	<i>Donax variabilis</i>	_____
Marsh periwinkle	<i>Littorina irrorata</i>	_____
<b>Atlantic deer cowry (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Macrocypraea sp.</i></b>	_____
Florida horse conch	<i>Pleuroploca gigantica</i>	_____
Florida crown conch	<i>Melongena corona</i>	_____
West Indian fighting conch	<i>Strombus pugilis</i>	_____
Pink or Queen conch	<i>Strombus gigas</i>	_____
Banded tulip	<i>Fasciolaria hunteria</i>	_____
Atlantic moon snail or Shark's eye	<i>Polinices duplicatus</i>	_____
Florida rock shell	<i>Thais haemastoma</i>	_____
<b>Common sundial (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Architectonica sp.</i></b>	_____
Netted olive	<i>Oliva reticularis</i>	_____
Lightning whelk	<i>Busycon contrarium</i>	_____
Pear whelk	<i>Busycon spiratum</i>	_____
Common octopus	<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>	_____
Squid	<i>Loligo pealei</i>	_____

**Arthropods (24)**

Acorn barnacle	<i>Balanus sp.</i>	_____
Gooseneck barnacle	<i>Lepas anatifera</i>	_____
Horseshoe crab	<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>	_____
Green striped hermit crab	<i>Clibanarius vittatus</i>	_____
Flame-streaked box crab or Shame-faced crab	<i>Calappa flammea</i>	_____
<b>Calico crab (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Hepatus epheliticus</i></b>	_____
Blue crab	<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>	_____
<b>Decorator crab</b> – Back on list!	<b><i>Stenocionops sp., Macrocoeloma, or Microphrys sp.</i></b>	_____
<b>Spider crab (NEW species!)</b>	<b><i>Libinia dubia</i></b>	_____
<b>Gulf (or False) Arrow Crab (New name!)</b>	<b><i>Metoporphaphis calcarata</i></b>	_____
<b>Yellowline Arrow crab (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Stenorhynchus seticornis</i></b>	_____
Stone crab	<i>Menippe mercenaria</i>	_____
Mud crab	<i>Panopeus sp.</i>	_____
Ghost crab	<i>Ocypode quadrata</i>	_____
Fiddler crab	<i>Uca sp.</i>	_____
Atlantic mole crab or sand flea	<i>Emerita talpoida</i>	_____

White shrimp  
 Mantis shrimp  
 Banded coral shrimp  
 Grass or Arrow shrimp  
 Glass shrimp  
 Spiny lobster  
 Beach flea (amphipod)

*Penaeus setiferus*  
*Stenopus hispidus*  
*Tozeuma carolinense*  
*Palaemonetes vulgaris*  
*Panulirus argus*  
*Orchestia sp.*

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**Echinoderms (9)**

Atlantic purple sea urchin  
 Variegated urchin  
 Pencil urchin  
 Keyhole sand dollar  
 Common sea star  
 Nine arm sea star  
 Cushion star  
 Brittle star  
 Sea cucumber

*Arbacia punctulata*  
*Lytechinus sp.*  
*Cidaris tribuloides*  
*Mellita quinquiesperforata*  
*Echinaster sp.*  
*Luidia sp.*  
*Oreaster reticulatus*  
*Ophionereis reticulate (and similar forms)*  
*Pentacta pigmaea*

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**Tunicates (sea squirts) (1)**

Leathery sea squirt

*Styela plicata*

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**Section 3: Marine and Coastal Vertebrates Identification (98)**

**Fishes (61)**

Southern stingray  
 Spotted eagle ray  
 Smooth butterfly ray  
 Bonnethead shark  
 Scalloped hammerhead  
 Blacktip shark  
 Nurse shark  
 Gulf killifish  
 Menhaden  
 Sheepshead porgy  
 Pinfish

**Scientific Name**  
*Dasyatis Sabina*  
*Aetobatus narinari*  
*Gymnura micura*  
*Sphyrna tiburo*  
*Sphyrna lewini*  
*Carcharhinus limbatus*  
*Ginglymostoma cirratum*  
*Fundulus grandis*  
*Brevoortia spp.*  
*Archosargus probatocephalus*  
*Lagodon rhomboids*

**Notes on natural history, habitat, features**

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Whiting or Kingfish	<i>Menticirrhus sp.</i>	_____
Atlantic croaker	<i>Micropogonias undulates</i>	_____
Spotted seatrout	<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>	_____
Silver seatrout	<i>Cynoscion nothus</i>	_____
Striped burrfish	<i>Chilomycterus schoepfi</i>	_____
<b>Checkered puffer (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Sphoeroides testudineus</i></b>	_____
Toadfish	<i>Opsanus beta</i>	_____
Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	_____
Tarpon	<i>Megalops atlanticus</i>	_____
Hardhead catfish	<i>Arius felis</i>	_____
Gafftopsail catfish (sailcat)	<i>Bagre marinus</i>	_____
Black seabass	<i>Centropristis striata</i>	_____
Gag grouper	<i>Mycteroperca microlepis</i>	_____
Red grouper	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	_____
Nassau grouper	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	_____
Goliath grouper	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	_____
Grey snapper	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	_____
Red snapper	<i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>	_____
<b>Yellowtail snapper (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i></b>	_____
King mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>	_____
<b>Spanish mackerel (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i></b>	_____
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	_____
Greater Amberjack	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	_____
Jack crevalle	<i>Caranx hippos</i>	_____
Permit	<i>Trachinotus falcatus</i>	_____
<b>Pompano (NEW!)</b>	<b><i>Trachinotus carolinus</i></b>	_____
Lookdown	<i>Selene vomer</i>	_____
Bluefish	<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>	_____
Great barracuda	<i>Sphyrna barracuda</i>	_____
Triggerfish	<i>Balistes spp.</i>	_____
Blue angelfish	<i>Holocanthus bermudensis</i>	_____
Queen angelfish	<i>Holocanthus ciliaris</i>	_____
Spadefish	<i>Chaetodipterus faber</i>	_____
Lined seahorse	<i>Hippocampus erectus</i>	_____
Pipefish	<i>Syngnathus sp.</i>	_____
Gulf flounder	<i>Paralichthyes albigutta</i>	_____
Southern flounder	<i>Paralichthyes lethostigma</i>	_____
Snook	<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i>	_____
Doctorfish/surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus sp.</i>	_____

Hogchoker  
Planehead filefish  
Lizardfish  
Batfish  
White grunt  
Black drum  
Red drum or Redfish  
Dolphin fish (Mahi mahi)  
Wahoo  
Blue Marlin  
Sailfish

*Trinectes maculatus*  
*Monacanthus hispidus*  
*Synodus* sp.  
*Ogcocephalus* sp.  
*Haemulon plumeri*  
*Pogonias cromis*  
*Sciaenops ocellatus*  
*Coryphaena hippurus*  
*Acanthocybium solanderi*  
*Makaira nigricans*  
*Istiophorus platypterus*

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**Reptiles (6)**

Green turtle  
Loggerhead turtle  
Leatherback turtle  
Hawksbill turtle  
American alligator  
American crocodile

*Chelonia mydas*  
*Caretta caretta*  
*Dermochelys coriacea*  
*Eretmochelys imbricate*  
*Alligator mississippiensis*  
*Crocodylus acutus*

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**Birds (28)**

Brown pelican  
Anhinga  
Double crested cormorant  
Roseate spoonbill  
Great blue heron  
Yellow-crowned night heron  
Black crowned night heron  
Snowy egret  
Great egret  
White ibis  
Mallard duck  
Frigate bird  
American coot  
Purple gallinule  
Laughing gull  
Ring-billed gull  
Least tern  
Bald eagle

*Pelecanus occidentalis*  
*Anhinga anhinga*  
*Phalacrocorax auritus*  
*Ajaia ajaja*  
*Ardea herodias*  
*Nycticorax violaceus*  
*Nycticorax nycticorax*  
*Egretta thula*  
*Casmerodius albus*  
*Eudocimus albus*  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Fregata magnificens*  
*Fulica Americana*  
*Porphyryula martinica*  
*Larus atricilla*  
*Larus delawarensis*  
*Sterna antillarum*  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

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Osprey  
Ruddy turnstone  
Willet  
Black skimmer  
American oystercatcher  
Belted kingfisher  
Redwing blackbird  
Boat-tailed grackle  
Wood stork  
Limkin

*Pandion haliaetus*  
*Arenaria interpres*  
*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*  
*Rynchops niger*  
*Haematopus palliatus*  
*Ceryle alcyon*  
*Agelaius phoeniceus*  
*Cassidix mexicanus*  
*Mycteria Americana*  
*Aramus guarauna*

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**Mammals (3)**

Manatee  
Bottlenose dolphin  
Humpback whale

*Trichechus manatus*  
*Tursiops truncatus*  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*

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