

Animals you may find on the discs

Grazers

Grazers are primary consumers. On the discs these animals eat the macroalgae by tearing off pieces from the thalli or others have special organs capable of scraping off diatoms from hard surfaces. Some grazers may also feed on dead plant material making them detritivores.



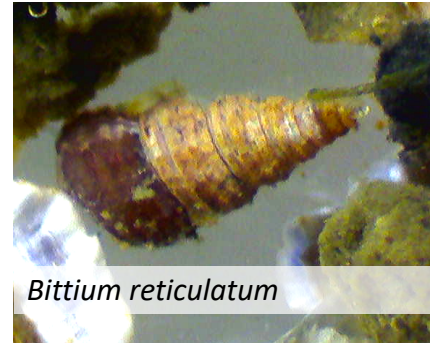
Littorina sp.

Phylum: Mollusca
Common name: Common periwinkle
Diet: Diatoms, Seaweeds
Recruitment: spring
Others: also eats dead macroalgae



Hydrobia ulvae

Phylum: Mollusca
Common name: Mud snail
Diet: Diatoms, seaweeds, bacteria
Recruitment: early spring
Others: very tiny snails; also eat detritus



Bittium reticulatum

Phylum: Mollusca
Common name: Needle whelk
Diet: Diatoms, Detritus
Recruitment: early spring
Others: nocturnal; scavenger



Gammarus sp.

Phylum: Arthropoda
Common name: Scud; Side swimmer
Diet: omnivore; barnacles, sponges, algae
Recruitment: whole year
Others: can also be a predator



Idotea sp.

Phylum: Arthropoda
Common name: Baltic isopod
Diet: Seaweeds
Recruitment: early spring
Others: also eats dead macroalgae; scavenger



Carcinus maenas

Phylum: Arthropoda
Common name: Shore crab
Diet: small crabs eat algae
Recruitment: Summer
Others: diet depends on the size of the individual; bigger crabs are predominantly predators



Nereis diversicolor

Phylum: Annelida
Common name: Ragworm
Diet: Diatoms, Seaweeds
Recruitment: early spring
Others: also eats dead macroalgae; exhibits diversity of feeding modes