

CEPHALOPOD CARE

SOP# = MOLL2

PURPOSE: To describe methods of care for squids and octopuses.

POLICY: To provide optimum care for all animals.

RESPONSIBILITY: Collector and user of animals. If these are not the same person, user takes responsibility of animals as soon as the animals have arrived on station.

IDENTIFICATION:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Identifying features
Opalescent squid	<i>Loligo opalescens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Mantle may reach 15cm-8 arms, 2 shorter in proportion to many other squid-2 tail fin less ample than those of other squid  A photograph of an opalescent squid (Loligo opalescens) in an aquarium. The squid is positioned horizontally, showing its mantle and arms. The background is a blurred view of the tank's interior.
Red octopus	<i>Octopus rubescens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ovoid body less than 6 cm long-Ranging from dull red to mottled white-Arms ~4 times the length of body-3 tiny flaps or 'eyelashes' below each eye will differentiate it other octopi-Tends to be more timid in captivity than other octopi  A photograph of a red octopus (Octopus rubescens) on a rocky shore. The octopus is resting on a sandy and rocky surface with some green seaweed. Its body is a vibrant red color, and its arms are spread out.

<p>Giant Pacific octopus</p>	<p><i>Enteroctopus dofleini</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Up to 7.3 meter arm spread and 73 kg -Tend to be outgoing in captivity 
<p>Stubby squid</p>	<p><i>Rossia pacifica</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Looks like a combination between a squid and an octopus -Large eyes for body size compared to octopus -Much shorter arms than octopus and have 8 arms and 2 tentacles -Exhibit octopus-like behaviors by spending most of their time on the bottom 

CAPTURE:

<p>Location</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Trevor Channel -Often bycatch from shrimpers or in trawl nets -Near Diana Isle -Off BMSC docks -Scott's Bay
<p>Methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Caught by trawl or dredge -Difficult, but not impossible to catch by scuba diving -May be able to obtain from shrimpers when caught as bycatch
<p>Notes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very rarely caught as individuals and very rarely in high numbers -Few survive collection and transport to BMSC

ANIMAL CARE:

<p>Holding Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A large tank is necessary -continually flowing, cold seawater -Must have plenty of dissolved oxygen -In-flow must be strong and directed to provide current -Lids are necessary and should be firmly closed as octopus are strong and will push lids and climb out -Being soft bodied they can escape out of a hole the size of their beak -Rocks, empty giant barnacle shells or hiding places are necessary help to decrease the level of stress of the animals, including some areas of sand or mud -Octopus are quite intelligent and curious, if animals are to be kept longer than a week various 'toys' should be put into tank to provide some stimulation. -Squid do not need as much stimulation, nor rocks for shelter as octopus -More sediment than rocks for squid seems to reduce their stress
<p>Feeding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Squids need to be fed twice a week with an alternating diet of small fishes, shrimps, and swimming invertebrates - Octopuses feed on crabs and eat heartily in captivity - There should be enough for each animal to feed on 1-2 prey items per feeding
<p>Tank Cleaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Every 2nd week, the cephalopods should be removed from the tank with a net and placed into a holding bucket with a fitted lid and aerated water. - The tanks should be drained and the sides and bottom should be scrubbed and rinsed with warm freshwater - The tanks should then be rinsed with cold seawater and allowed to refill - Once enough water has filled the tanks to allow the cephalopods to swim freely, they should be placed back into the tank
<p>Daily Duties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate. -Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked. -Check for and remove dead animals. -Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms. -Check for and remove foreign organisms. -Ensure there are no holes or other routes of escape the animal might use to get out. These guys are sneaky!
<p>Animal Return</p>	<p>Always return to the site of collection. Small octopus can easily become prey items for fish when they are released at the surface of the water and have to swim to the bottom. If possible encourage octopus into a shell or empty giant barnacle where it will be safe until it hits the ocean bottom</p>
<p>Important Notes</p>	<p>** Squid and octopus should be handled as minimally as possible and never with a bare hand. Not only can they give a nasty bite but their skin can be easily damaged leading to bacterial infections.</p>