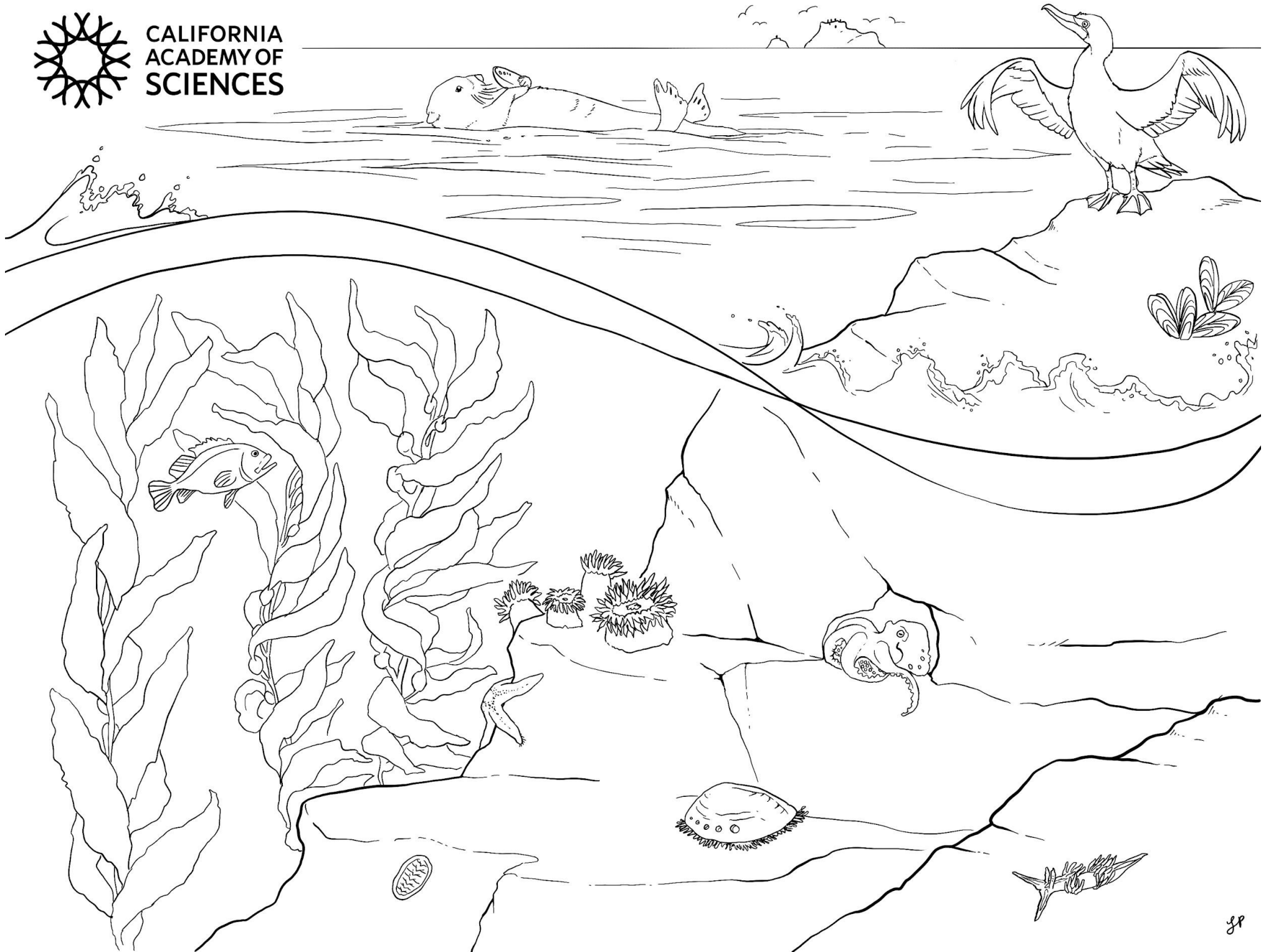




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California Coast

From the rocky shore to the kelp forest, California's coast is home to a wide array of living things. Can you spot:

California Mussels: Each mussel has two shells, so they're in the group of soft-bodied mollusks called *bivalves*, along with clams, oysters, and other similar animals.

Chiton: This oval-shaped mollusk's 8 plates of armor overlap, protecting its soft body underneath.

Double Crested Cormorant: These seabirds are excellent divers, and can be found drying their wings while taking a break on land.

Giant Green Sea Anemone: Like their relatives the jellyfish, anemones have stinging cells in their tentacles to help catch their prey.

Giant Kelp: Kelp forests are important habitats for ocean life along the California coast. Giant kelp has air pockets to keep the leaves near the surface, where the sun is the brightest.

Ochre Sea Star: These sea stars can open the shells of their preferred prey, mussels, using tiny "tube feet" on the underside of their five arms.

Octopus: These clever creatures are in a group of mollusks called *Cephalopods*, along with squid, nautilus, and cuttlefish.

Opalescent Nudibranch: This fabulous sea slug has an ice blue body with bright orange tentacles called *cerata*.

Red Abalone: Known for their iridescent shells, these snail-like animals are popular prey for ocean animals and people alike.

Southern Sea Otter: With the densest fur of all mammals, sea otters have up to one million hairs per square inch.

Yelloweye Rockfish: These fish are among the longest lived of the rockfishes—they can live up to 150 years!

Art by Louise Prescott for the California Academy of Sciences.