

Eye Undersea

Photographer F. Stuart Westmorland focuses on ocean life of the Pacific Northwest



Tealia *piscivora* is the largest and longest-living sea anemone in Pacific Northwest waters. Specimens have grown as large as 18 inches in diameter and lived longer than 80 years. They thrive where currents are swift and the water is clear.



Neon-striped commensal "clown" shrimp maintain a symbiotic relationship with a crimson anemone. The semi-transparent crustaceans are immune to the host anemone's defensive stinging cells.



The colorful shell of a blue-top snail, abandoned by its original owner, now houses a hermit crab. The migrant hermit protects its soft abdomen by inhabiting empty shells. As it outgrows each residence, however, the crab is forced to seek larger accommodations.



The china rockfish, speckled in bright yellow, decorates craggy crevices at underwater depths of 30 to 90 feet. Rockfish are plentiful in the current-swept Strait of Juan de Fuca, which separates Washington's Olympic Peninsula from Canada's Vancouver Island.



Concentric-shaped, white-tipped strawberry anemones brighten seascapes from Baja California, Mexico, to British Columbia, Canada. More closely related to the stony corals than the anemone family, the "strawberries" flourish on the rocks in high-current areas.



The brightly colored brooding anemone, seldom exceeding an inch or two in diameter, often appears as a glowing jewel when illuminated underwater. Adult specimens shelter their offspring—as many as 30 at a time—in a groove around their base.



The juvenile Puget Sound king crab, with its bright-orange armor-like shell, is easy to spot against the dull rocks of the ocean floor. But as the crab gets older, it uses seaweed and barnacles to camouflage its exterior, which then darkens to hues of dark red and purple. At full size, the creature can measure up to 18 inches across.

Seattle-based photographer F. Stuart Westmorland specializes in natural history, travel and underwater images. A self-taught photographer, he won first-place awards in local, national and international photo contests within a year of acquiring his submersible camera. Westmorland's ocean photos since have appeared in magazines such as *Audubon*, *Chartering*, *New Look*, *Outside*, *Science* and *Sports International*.

In 1976, three years after becoming a certified scuba diver, 18-year-old Westmorland was the youngest member of a scientific diving team trained for oceanographic experiments in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Today, his frequent outdoor adventures keep him and his cameras "clicking."

