

What's

Some KELP species grow like shrubs and fan out with many branches. Other species of seaweed, which are even more shade tolerant, live on the bottom and sprawl out like a carpet of grass. These plants are food and shelter for many organisms, from larval invertebrates to small fishes to marine mammals.

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Aggregations of fishes are common in the kelp forest: señoritas, black perch, garibaldi and others.



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Many animals feed on different species of kelp.

SURF PERCH eat smaller

kelps, while SEA URCHINS and SNAILS feed on drifting pieces of larger kelp. Tiny invertebrates such as COPEPODS, SHRIMP, and BRYOZOANS live on the blades and stipes. Small fishes called

SEÑORITAS skim the kelp,

down

 feeding on these organisms.

Larger fishes such as SHARKS and SEA BASS eat these smaller fishes.

SEA OTTERS eat urchins, snails and other invertebrates that eat kelp and kelp holdfasts.



Sea lions, harbor seals and sea otters come to a kelp forest seeking shelter as well as food.



Thousands of small invertebrates live in and around the holdfast, helping to anchor it to the rocky reef. How many can you see?



there?