

Seashell Collecting Laws & Regulations in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is a U.S. Territory and under the same federal regulations as the United States. Endangered Species may not be removed, disturbed, or collected. Seashells may be taken for personal use without profit and taken back to the continental U.S from Puerto Rico. If you are traveling elsewhere in the Caribbean, be sure to check that country's laws as there can be fines in some countries for collecting seashells.

https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/1226/~/seashells,-sand,-pebbles,-driftwood-for-personal-use



BLACK-RIBBED LIMPET
Lottia leucopleura

Size: 6-22 mm

This species is a true limpet and can be found in coral reefs.



BARBADOS KEYHOLE LIMPET

Fissurella barbadensis

Size: up to 41 mm

Distinguishable by thick, rugged sculpture and the way the ribs extend past interspaces.



LISTER'S KEYHOLE LIMPET

Diodora listeri

Size: up to 26 mm

Always rough or coarse in appearance, and color is dirty cream to white to yellowish.



EMARGINATE EMARGINULA

Montfortia emarginata

Size: 20-40 mm

This species belongs to the Fissurellidae Family.



SPOTTED LIMPET

Patelloida pustulata

Size: up to 25 mm

This species is a true limpet and also known as *Eoacmaea pustulata*.



Seashell Guide of the Northeast Ecological Corridor of Puerto Rico



By Heather Kostick
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CHECKERED NERITE

Nerita tessellata

Size: up to 25 mm

Confused with Antillean nerite & four-tooth nerite.



COMMON DOVESHELL

Columbella mercatoria

Size: up to 25 mm

AKA the West Indian Dovesnail, it's very common along beaches.



HORSE HOOF SHELLS

Family: Hippidae

Size: varies

The species pictured here has what looks like a horse shoe on the inside of the shell.



FILOSE TURBAN

Turbo caiteti

Size: up to 35 mm

Marine species that ranges from the Caribbean to Panama.

The seashells listed in this guide are not the full list of what could possibly occur in this area of Puerto Rico. Shells listed in this guide were identified from specimens collected along the Seven Seas Beach in the NEC in March 2016.

The majority of the shells listed in this guide have a range between Florida and Brazil, and throughout the Caribbean. One (1) inch equals 25.4 millimeters.

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For a full list of references used in this guide, please go to
<https://hkostick.wordpress.com/seashell-guide-to-nec/>.



LEAFY JEWEL BOX

Chama macerophylla

Size: up to 70 mm

This species is not eaten by humans but can be a nuisance to ships, buoys, and docks.

SCORCHED MUSSEL

Brachidontes exustus

Size: 10-46 mm

This mussel is often the dominate mollusk in mangroves and estuarine areas.



BUTTERCUP LUCINE

Anodontia alba

Size: up to 60 mm

Similar in appearance to the chalky buttercup lucine.

BICOLOR PURSE OYSTER

Isognomon bicolor

Size: 35-50 mm

Considered an invasive species in southeastern Brazil.



DWARF TIGER LUCINE

Ctena orbiculata

Size: up to 23 mm

Found in a variety of habitats, and appeared on the scene about 11 million years ago.



MAGNUM PRICKLY COCKLE

Trachycardium magnum

Size:

This species is a true cockle and also known as *Acrosterigma magnum*.



GIANT ATLANTIC COCKLE

Dinocardium robustum

Size: up to 125 mm

This cockle is popular for decoration and crafts.



ATLANTIC PEARL OYSTER

Pinctada imbricata

Size: up to 60.1 mm

This species does indeed make pearls, and has a broad range of habitats.



QUEEN CONCH

Strombus gigas

Size: up to 352 mm

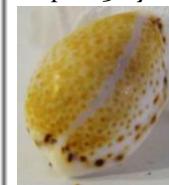
Protected species in FL, and collected for commercial use (food, decoration).

WEST INDIAN TOPSNAIL

Cittarium pica

Size: up to 130 mm

Protected in some Caribbean countries and estimated to live up to 30 years.



ATLANTIC YELLOW COWRIE

Erosaria acicularis

Listing:

Size: up to 31 mm

Maximum recorded depth is 780 m (2559 ft).



DWARF CERITH

Family: Cerithiidae

Size: up to 20 mm

Common species that is often used in aquariums as an algae cleaner.



OVATE DOVE SHELL

Conella ovulata

Listing:

Size:

Fun Fact:



SMOOTH ATLANTIC TEGULA

Tegula fasciata

Size: up to 22 mm

AKA the Silky Tegula, they can vary greatly in color



SPINY PAPER COCKLE

Papyridaea soleniformis

Size: up to 39 mm

Ranges from North Carolina to the West Indies.



WEST INDIAN BULIMULUS

Bulimulus guadalupensis

Not a marine snail, but due to habitat preference (mangroves) their shells are often found on the beach.



WHITE MINIATURE ARK

Barbatia domingensis

Size: up to 25 mm

Coastal species that appeared on the scene about 55 million years ago.

MOSSY ARK

Arca imbricata

Size: up to 64 mm

Like other ark species, this one is covered in shaggy periostraca when alive.



RED-BROWN ARK

Barbatia cancellaria

Size: up to 100 mm

Can be found on the underside of rocks and when alive covered in shaggy periostraca.



DELICATE ARK

Fugleria tenera

Size: up to 35 mm

Coastal species that appeared on the scene about 780,000 years ago.



ATLANTIC MODULUS

Modulus modulus

Size: 10-25 mm long

This species only lives for about a year and its shells are used by hermit crabs.



CHESTNUT TURBAN

Turbo castanea

Size: up to 55 mm

AKA the orange cat eye snail and are well known as algae eaters.



BLEEDING TOOTH NERITE

Nerita peloronta

Size: 20-49 mm

Can vary greatly with colors, and look similar to four-tooth nerites.



ANTILLEAN NERITE

Nerita fulgurans

Size: 35 mm

Can live up to 6 years and it is mature when at 19 mm. Hermit crabs use the empty shells.