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# Abalone

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*Haliotis rufescens*, Red Abalone

Nine species of abalone occur in North America: black (*H. cracherodii*), flat (*H. walallensis*), green (*H. fulgens*), pink (*H. corrugata*), pinto (*H. kamtschatkana*), red (*H. rufescens*), threaded (*H. assimilis*), Western Atlantic (*H. pourtalesii*), and white (*H. sorenseni*) abalone.

- Only have one shell opposed to clams which have two.
- The Latin root of *Haliotis* translates to “sea ear,” referring to the flattened shape of the shell.
- No two abalone shells are identical. Composed of nacre (mother of pearl), the composition and iridescent color of the inner layer of the shell varies depending on the abalone’s diet.
- While the entire flesh of the abalone is edible, U.S. consumption is primarily of the muscle portion. In Japan, the gonad is considered a delicacy if removed and eaten immediately from a live abalone.

