

## 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](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

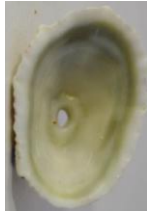
This species is a true limpet and can be found in coral reefs.

**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  
May 2016



**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: Hipponidae

Size: varies

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

**FILOSE TURBAN**

*Turbo cailletii*

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**

*Papyridea 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

Costal 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.

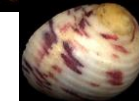


**BLEEDING TOOTH NERITE**

*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.

