

Identifying Port Phillip Bay's Seastars

St Kilda Marina Club has created this reference card to assist responsible boaters to identify the good seastars from the bad ones.

The Bad:

Northern Pacific Seastar



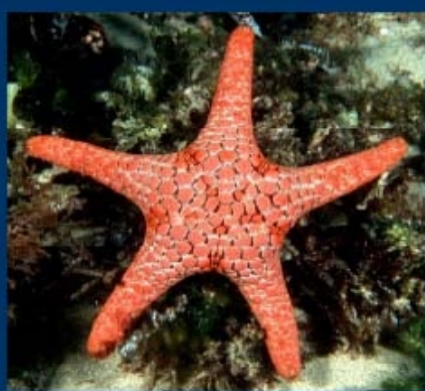
Five legs ending in pointed upturned tips

Note: A single arm of the Northern Pacific Seastar returned to the water can grow back into a full body.

The Good:

Ocellate seastar (*Nectria ocellata*)

Zigzag seastar (*Uniphora granifera*) *



Cushion seastar (*Patriella calcar*)

11-legged seastar (*Coscinasterias muricata*)

* This species closely resembles the introduced seastar **but lacks the pointed turned-up tips on its legs**. The Zigzag seastar has more rounded, blunter spines on its upper surface, and as the name suggests, these are often arranged in a zigzag-like pattern. This species is less likely to be caught by anglers than the native 11-leg seastar, or the Northern Pacific Seastar.