CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sunflower Sea Star

Pycnopodia helianthoides

The sunflower sea star (Pycnopodia helianthoides) is one of the largest sea stars in the world, spanning up to a metre across, and one of the fastest, moving over a metre a minute on as many as 15,00…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Asteriidae
Habitat: Coastal ocean, rocky bottoms, and kelp forests
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Critically Endangered
Lifespan: 3-9 years
Weight: 3.5-5 kg
Scientific name: Pycnopodia helianthoides

Did you know?

- The Sunflower Sea Star can have up to 24 arms, making it one of the sea stars with the most appendages in the world.
- It adds arms as it grows, going from five as a juvenile to as many as 24 as an adult. It can outrun most sea stars, covering more than a metre a minu…

What I learned

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