

GIANT PACIFIC OCTOPUS

Enteroctopus dofleini

Wülker, 1910



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Cephalopoda

Order: Octopoda

Family: Octopodidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

UNCOMMON



LEAST CONCERN

Identification : Adults can reach an armspan of more than 4 meters and a weight near 70 kg. The biggest octopus species known. Its mantle often has a warty appearance with small horn-like projections over eyes. Coloration dark red to gray.

Range: The species occurs in the coastal regions of Northern Pacific Ocean, from Japan and Russia to Alaska, Canada and USA.

Habitat : Rocky and sandy bottoms in cold oxygen-rich waters, down to 2000 meters.

Behavior: Mostly nocturnal, very well camouflaged. Feeds on many species of fishes, invertebrates and on carrion. The most intelligent invertebrate species known.

Status in the wild: This species seems to be locally common but might be affected by water pollution and global warming.

In captivity: This species is fairly common in American collections and also occurs in Asian aquariums. It's much rarer in Europe with less than five collections currently displaying the species. Not bred in captivity.