


Rocky Intertidal

The rocky intertidal is filled with many types of algae and animals that are constantly dealing with environmental pressures like being exposed to the air twice a day and being hit by waves, in addition to having to compete with each other for food and space on the rocks. This competition and survival results in bands of different organisms that are specialized to living in a certain zone of the intertidal.

Species in the rocky intertidal

				<i>Splash Zone</i>
				<i>Upper Intertidal</i>
				<i>Middle Intertidal</i>
				<i>Lower Intertidal</i>
<p>Rockweed (<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>)</p> <p>Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)</p> <p>Forbes sea star (<i>Asterias forbesii</i>)</p> <p>Tortoiseshell limpet (<i>Acmaea testudinalis</i>)</p> <p>Green crab* (<i>Carcinus maenas</i>)</p>				
<p>Irish moss (<i>Chondrus crispus</i>)</p> <p>Rock crab (<i>Cancer irroratus</i>)</p> <p>Coralline algae (<i>Corallina officinalis</i>)</p> <p>Slender eolid (<i>Coryphella gracilis</i>)</p>				

How have the organisms living in the intertidal zones adapted to their environment?

*invasive species