

Information Sheet No. 1

Queen Conch Vocabulary List

Queen conch – A large herbivorous gastropod important as a commercial and subsistence fisheries specie in Florida and the Caribbean region

Strombus gigas – The scientific (genus specie) name for the queen conch

Proboscis – A long, flexible snout-like organ that is use for grazing

Eye Stalk – A tentacle-like extension that supports the eye.

Foot – The muscular structure on the conch which is used for locomotion, and is the part of the animal consumed by humans

Operculum – The harden structure at the tip of the foot used to aid the movement called the “strombid leap”

Egg Mass – Structure that is internally fertilized and then laid by the female conch. Each egg mass may contain half a million eggs.

Lobes – Ciliated structures found only on larval conch used for locomotion, feeding, and to get oxygen from the water column

Shell – The hard outer covering characteristic of mollusks. Conch are born with a shell and the shell will grow with them as they age

Pink – The brilliant color which is a characteristic of the large queen conch shells

Horn – An empty conch shell with the tip of a spire removed that is historically used in many tribal ceremonies

Radula – The mouth-like apparatus at the tip of the proboscis used for scraping algae off of seagrass blades and sand grains

Benthic – Another term for a bottom dwelling animal

Veliger – A larval (free-swimming) conch

Spire – The points or tips of the conch shell. These are formed as a defense mechanism so that the shell appears larger than it is and makes it difficult for predators to crush

Detritus – Algae that grows on the substrate (seagrass blades).

Diatom – Type of silicate based plankton.