

**CHARACTERS** Arm armature consists of two suckers per row; web extends to arm tips [1]; papillae over eye [2]; mantle texture in longitudinal rows [3]; males with enlarged suckers on arms I-III; calamus long [4]; ink sac present.

**COLOR** Orange to brick red; capable of extreme color and texture change.

**LIFE HISTORY** Maximum age is 4-6 years; mature at age 3-4. This species is semelparous; females guard, clean, and aerate eggs until hatching, then die. Females lay 50,000-100,000 eggs in strings under rocks or in crevices. Eggs hatch in 5-7 months during which time the female does not feed. Paralarvae are planktonic for the first few months before settling to the seafloor.

**MAXIMUM SIZE** 200-250 cm total length.

**DEPTH RANGE** 3-1,000 m.

**HABITAT** Epibenthic on muddy to rocky bottom types.

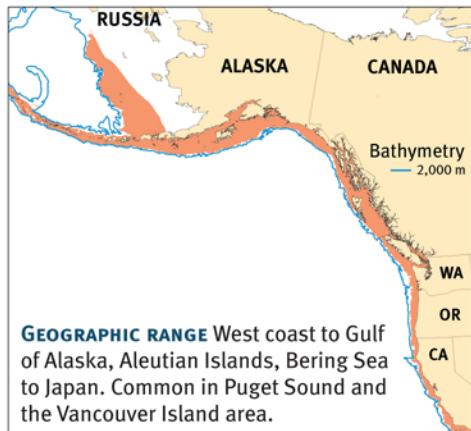
**PREY** Fishes, shellfish, and cephalopods.

**PREDATORS** Predators differ with life stage and include marine mammals and fishes, including Pacific halibut and skates.

**INDUSTRY USES** Taken for food and bait.

**COMMENTS** This is the largest species of octopus in the world. The eye papillae characteristic of this species can be seen on specimens as small as 3 cm mantle length.

**SIMILAR SPECIES** Immature animals can be confused with *Sasakiopus salebrosus*, *Benthoctopus leioderma*, and *Octopus rubescens*. Very large octopuses are likely *Enteroctopus dofleini*. In small specimens, *Enteroctopus dofleini* will have a web that extends to arm tips, eye papillae (on a relaxed, healthy animal), and a highly textured mantle organized into longitudinal ridges.



**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE** West coast to Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea to Japan. Common in Puget Sound and the Vancouver Island area.

*Enteroctopus dofleini*  
Barkley Sound, British Columbia, Canada

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