

Information

Report sightings of Northern Pacific Seastars



Northern Pacific Seastars have been found in the Tidal River watercourse at Wilsons Promontory National Park, posing a major threat to Victoria's marine environment.

The Northern Pacific Seastar is easily identified by the following features:

- five broad arms with upturned pointed ends
- spines on upper surface are pointed and irregularly arranged down arms
- spines in grooves on underside of arms have rough tips
- diameter 10 to 50 cm (from tip to tip)
- main colour from yellow through to orange, often with purple markings

Native seastars have rounded rather than pointed tips at the end of each arm.

You can help to eradicate this serious marine pest in the following ways:

- Record the location and report any suspected sightings of the Northern Pacific Seastar to the Tidal River Visitor Centre during opening hours or telephone 1800 350 552.
- Ensure that any equipment (including boats, fishing gear, wetsuits and water toys) used in Tidal River are cleaned and left to dry before leaving Tidal River campground.
- Clean and wash any fish/ shellfish obtained from Tidal River before transporting out of Tidal River campground.
- Clean and anti-foul boat hulls regularly.

Do not attempt to collect the seastar yourself. While Northern Pacific Seastars are safe for humans to touch and handle, a number of our native species have been removed from the water after being mistaken for this introduced seastar. Native seastars are protected by law and some species have been known to eat the Northern Pacific Seastar.