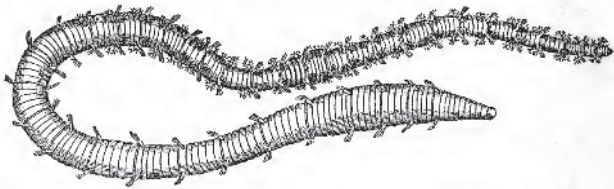


# Jersey's Living Coast: Sandy Shores

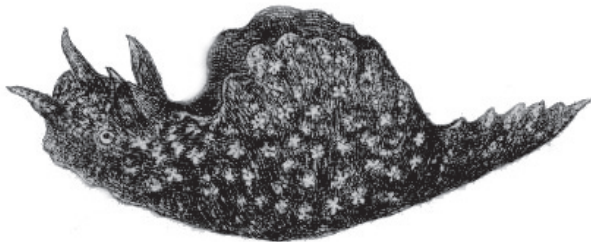
Jersey is famous for its wide sandy beaches and at first sight they can appear barren and lifeless, like a desert. This is because when the tide goes out much of the marine life buries itself in the sand where it can remain hidden and moist until the return of the tide. Careful searching will bring to light many interesting creatures.



## LUGWORMS

(*Arenicola* spp.); 12 cm

The lugworm is one of several worm species which lives in U-shaped tunnels in the sand. They betray their presence on the seashore by making small spiral piles of sand on the sediment surface. Lugworms are extensively used for bait and are an important food for many types of wading bird.



## SEA HARE

(*Aplysia punctata*); 20 cm

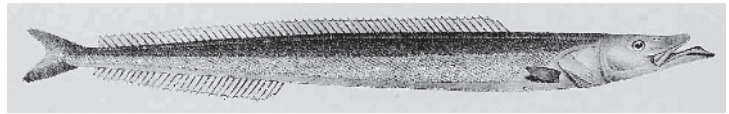
Sometimes erroneously referred to as a 'sea slug', the sea hare actually has a small shell located in the middle of its back. They are seasonal visitors to our shores and in some years arrive in large numbers during the springtime. They emit a purple dye if alarmed.



## COCKLE

(*Cerastoderma edule*); 5 cm

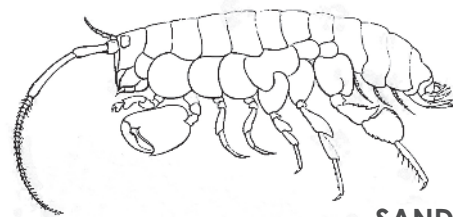
The edge of a cockle's shell may often be seen protruding from the sand in the middle and lower seashore. They are filter-feeders and, while not numerous enough to permit commercial harvesting, they are sometimes raked up and eaten by low water fishermen.



## SAND EEL

(*Ammodytes tobianus*); 20 cm

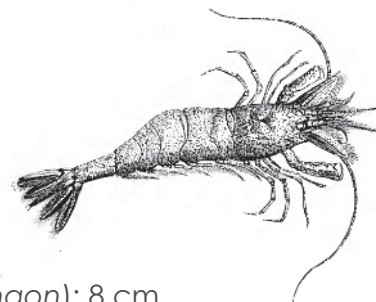
Much favoured by fishermen, these elongate, silvery fish like to bury themselves in clean sand on the middle and lower shore. They are hard to find and generally only reveal themselves if disturbed by digging. When in water they can swim very fast and will bury themselves in the blink of an eye.



## SAND-HOPPER

(*Orchestia* spp.); 2 cm

Found under rotting seaweed and among plants right at the top of the seashore, sand-hoppers are active creatures which will leap into the air when disturbed. They are exceptionally hardy animals which can live away from the sea for periods of time. They sometimes find their way into people's houses!



## SHRIMP

(*Crangon crangon*); 8 cm

The shrimp must be searched for at the water's edge and is a hard animal to catch without a net. It is accomplished at camouflage with a flattened body that is well-disguised against the sand. Shrimps are strong swimmers and, once caught, will make a great effort to escape from a net.