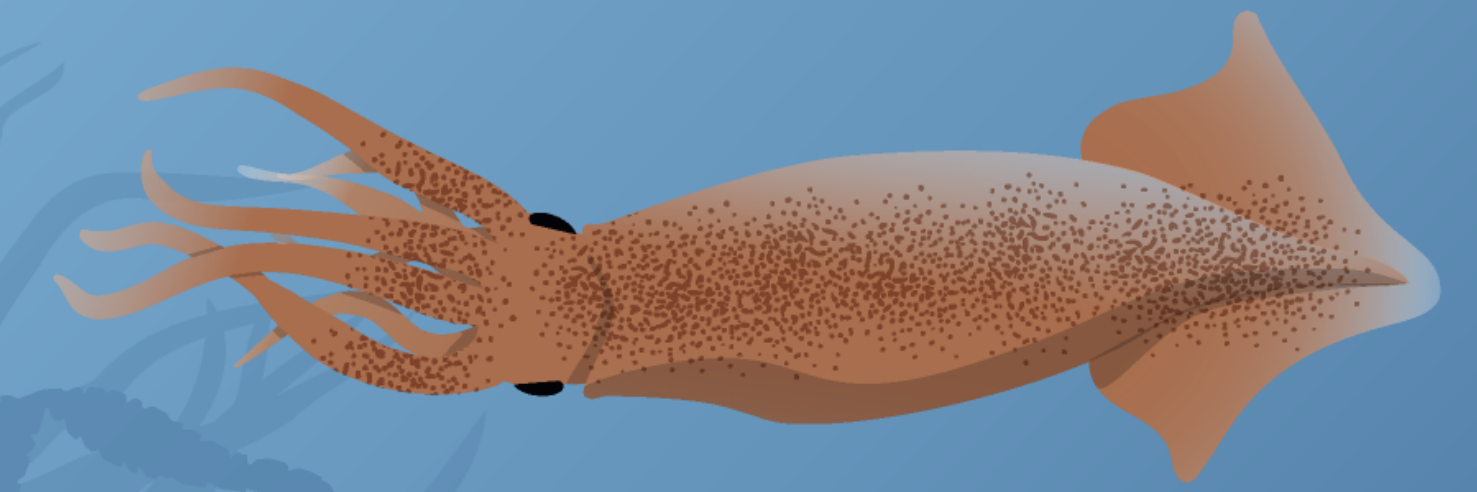
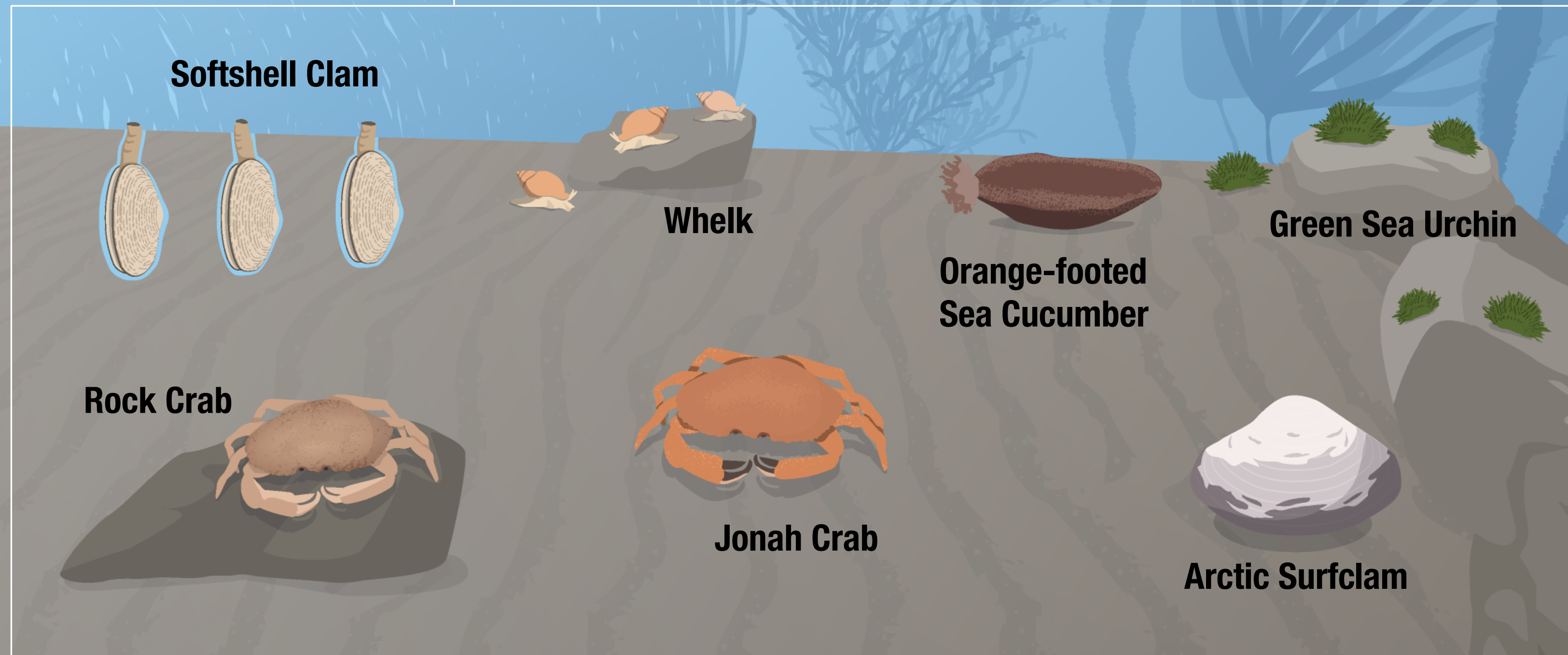


# Highs and lows of large marine invertebrates

Marine invertebrates play essential roles in ecosystems, greatly contributing to the ecological and economic services upon which people depend.

Some **molluscs**, **crustaceans**, and **echinoderms** are fished only in specific areas throughout Atlantic Canada's bioregions. Very few are monitored in research surveys, which makes it difficult to assess the status of the population.



**Northern Shortfin Squid** have been found in record high abundances in recent research surveys.



**American Lobster** can tolerate a wider range of temperatures than other invertebrates and their landings have been at a record high.



**Scallops** occur both inshore and offshore where landings have been stable or below average.



**Cold-water crustaceans** are vulnerable because of warming bottom temperatures from climate change.



**Snow Crab**

**Sponges** provide habitat on the seafloor and are threatened by bottom contact fishing.

