



A diagram of the two plots we surveyed.

# Wasting Away

## Vashon and Sea star Wasting Syndrome

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The group busy at work, searching for sea stars!

**INTRODUCTION:** Sea star wasting syndrome is a disease that causes lesions which is followed by decay of tissue around the lesions. We were trying to see if the Wasting syndrome was still affecting the sea stars found around Raab's Lagoon.

**RESULTS:** In total, 73 *Pisaster ochraceous* sea star were found at site number 1, on April 20th, 2015. This is 59 less than the amount found during the 2014 survey. Less sea stars in total were found, but 98% of the found sea stars were healthy, compared to 97% of healthy sea stars observed in 2014. Only 2 sea stars were found at site number 2. Last year, 140 sea stars were found in 2014. However no *Evasterias troschelii* found on the entire beach during our 2015 survey.

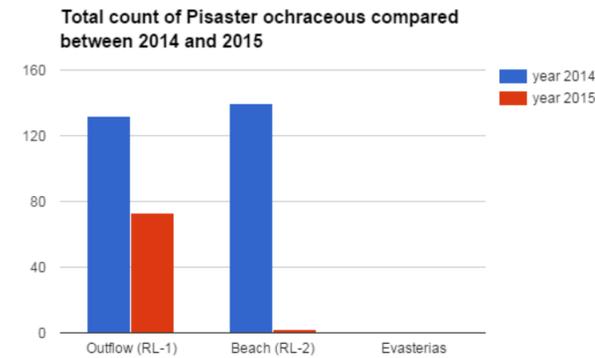
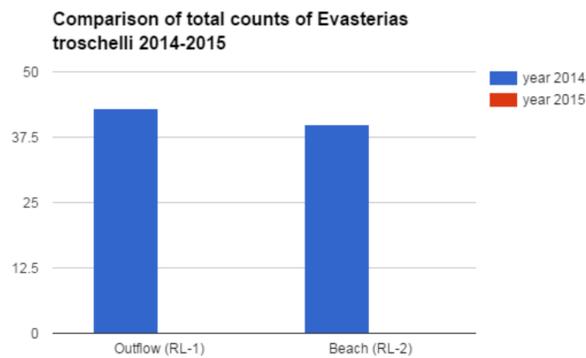
**ABSTRACT:** The purpose of our experiment was to see how the sea star wasting syndrome affected the sea stars of Raab's lagoon. At Raab's Lagoon we went through the water counting lesions and any missing legs of sea star.



Example of wasting *Pisaster ochraceous*



Raab's Lagoon, on Maury Island



An example of a *Evasterias troschelii*



An example of a *Pisaster ochraceous* seastar



Rhys and Dylan seeing their first seastar!

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** On April 20th, 2015, we (six students, Bianca Perla, and Jeffrey Adams) went out to survey the sea star at Raab's Lagoon on Maury Island. We split into two groups, one group with Bianca and another with Jeff. Each group measured the sea star radius from the center of their body out to the tip of one of their arms in centimeters. Then we inspected the sea star looking for white gashes or missing arms. If the sea star were healthy they were categorized under 0 (healthy). If lesions or missing a leg were found, they were categorized depend on the severity of the wounds and the number of legs. They were labeled from level 1, being the least harmed, to level 5, the most harmed.

**LITERATURE SITED:** <http://www.eeb.ucsc.edu/pacificrockyintertidal/data-products/sea-star-wasting/index.html> This site goes into great detail about the devastating Wasting Sea Star syndrome that has been traveling up the west coast. We also compared our data to the data recorded last year.

**DISCUSSIONS:** This means the disease reduced the sea star to some of the lowest they have ever been in years. The *Evasterias troschelii* were wiped out. As for the *Pisaster ochraceus*, they are going through a recovery stage because the percentage of sick Sea stars this year(2%) was a lot lower than 2014's 10% wasted rate.

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Bianca and Jeff comparing seastar data table.

