

# COMMON OCTOPUS

- Octopuses are cephalopods (cephalus=head, pods=limbs) with eight arms.
- They hunt using these arms with suckers and use a hard beak to crack open the crabs, bivalves, and other crustaceans they feed on.
- They have a poison gland that they use to immobilize prey. In addition to being a master of camouflage, they breed only once in their life.
- Female octopuses are exceptionally attentive mothers. Mother octopuses die shortly after their young hatch.

## DESCRIPTION

Scientific Name: *Octopus vulgaris*

Size: 1000 mm

Scale Bar: 50 mm

Habitat: Benthic (such as rocks, coral reefs, and grass beds)

Depth: 5 to 100 m



## IMPORTANCE

- A key food source.
- Regulate small fish and crustacean populations, and control algae to protect coral reefs.
- Excellent indicators of ecosystem health.

## FUN FACT

The common octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*) is renowned for its extraordinary intelligence—it can solve complex puzzles, like unscrewing jar lids to access food, showcasing problem-solving skills

## THREATS

Climate change, pollution, overfishing, habitat loss

## IUCN STATUS

Least Concern

