

Cannonball Jellyfish

Cannonball Jelly *(Stomolophus meleagris)*

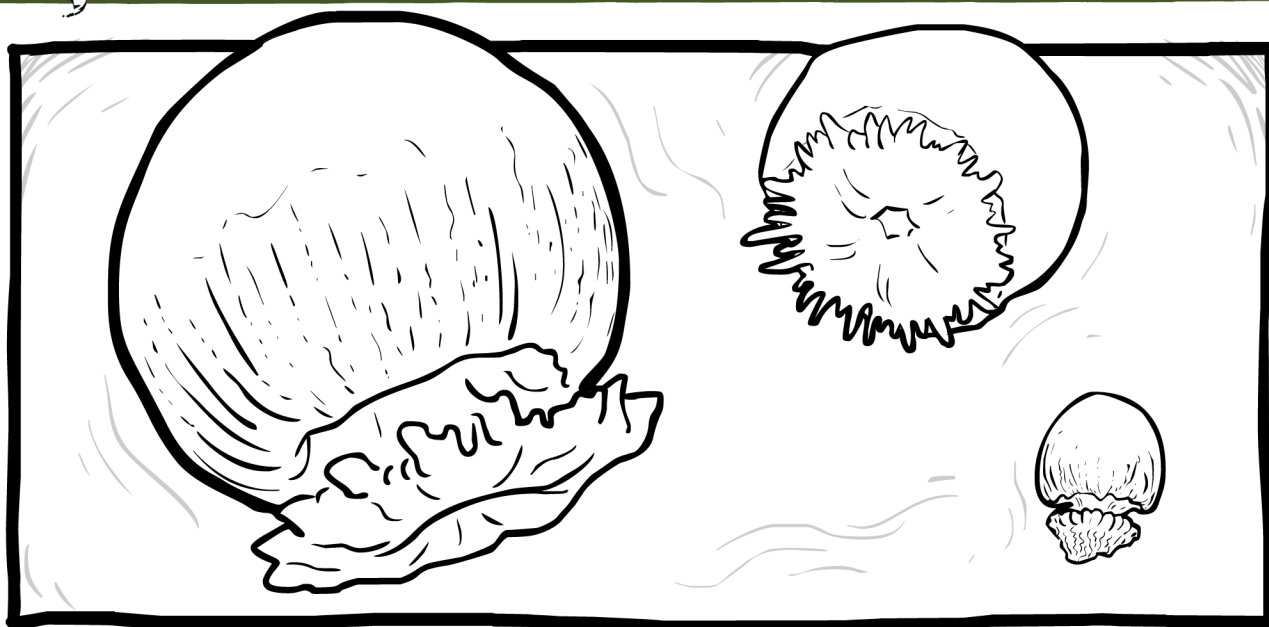
Instant ID

- A milky-colored, ball-shaped jelly up to 10 inches in diameter
- Has a chandelier-shaped collection of oral arms sticking out from the bell (body)
- Sometimes has red or brown pigmentation along the edge of the bell near the oral arms

Native Niches

- Found along the Atlantic coasts from New England to Brazil and the Gulf of Mexico
- Also found along the Pacific coasts from California to Ecuador and the Sea of Japan to the South China Sea
- Most often seen in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Southeastern Atlantic





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Favorite Foods

- Eat zooplankton (microscopic to tiny sea animals)

Critter Characteristics

- Produces a toxin in its nematocyst (stinging cells) which it uses mainly for defense from predators
- Has a symbiotic (two species living together) relationship with juvenile long-nosed spider crabs and 10 species of fish
- A strong swimmer compared to other jellyfish

Population Protection

- Important food source to endangered leatherback sea turtles
- The species benefits from excluder devices in shrimp nets

