

It does not matter what type of camera you have, there are some key ways to improve your photos for better identification for Mm2 and your own knowledge.

1. Size - Including something for the viewer to judge size is important. A ruler is ideal but you can include other items in your photo for comparison. A ruler is ideal but a hand, coin or end of a pencil will work as well.
2. Clarity - It is never fun when you leave the shore and go back to look at your photos only to find them blurry. Make sure to take a few photos. If you are using your phone, tap the screen to focus on the animal you are taking a photo of. The photo below of a common shore crab, is in focus, the only animal within the photo, but is missing a scale!



3. One animal in photo - identifying animals is easy when the photo is focused only on one animal.
 - If the animal is able to be picked up, place it in your palm to take the photo.
 - Do not remove animals that are stuck (chitons, limpets, really strong snails!) but get close and focus your camera on the animal you are interested in. Point to the individual animal if you cannot have one animal in the photo which also acts as a judge for the size of the animal.

4. Different Angles

- Make sure to take a few photos with different angles of your animal, especially snails! Having a photo of the top, bottom, and side will help with more detailed identification.



5. Describe the location

- Last, but certainly not least, where did you take your photo?
 - Sheltered, under rock, low, mid or high tide location from waters edge.
 - The marine animal species you will be looking at while doing a Marine Metre Squared program reside in habitats, certain locations around the shore. Knowing the location of where you found a marine animal can help in the identification process.

Light of the tide pools

Light is all important to get that perfect photoshoot. When photographing marine species on the shores for Mm2, it is good to be aware of how light may affect your photo that you upload to iNaturalist. Be aware of when you are going to the shore to perform a Mm2. Will there be lots of sun, is it an overcast day, what time of day is it? Things to be aware of while photographing marine species are:

- Shadows within the photo
- Dark/lightness - too much of either can hinder in helping with identifications of a marine animal
- Making sure the sky is not within the photo
 - The sky is beautiful but it will cause shadow and usually unfocuses the object that you want to be clear
- Glare off of water/surfaces can hinder the clarity of the photo
 - If there is water within the area of the marine animal, try to get different angles to see which has the least amount of glare