



SCUBA LUV MAUI DIVE REPORT

KEAWAKAPU BEACH

“CRITTER OF THE WEEK”

(808) 870-2738

HARP SNAIL



Steve saw this guy pop out of the sand right in front of us! He uprighted himself and began to move out in search of his prey. His mantle is so enormous it will not fit in his shell. These predators are known to “self-amputate” part of the mantle as bait and then swing around and envelope any crustacean feeding on it! The harp snail family is small with only a dozen known species. They are characterized as having ribbed shells that are sturdy, heavy, glossy and covered with a detailed pattern of rich oranges, browns and maroons. They live in the sand and are usually encountered just after dusk when they come to the surface to forage for crabs. He literally pounces on his prey in slow motion so as not to alert the crab, enveloping it with his muscular foot, suffocating it and secreting mucus onto the crabs face, incapacitating the gills.

FOR VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THIS GUY, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICK ON “GALLERY”

DATE OF REPORT: SEPT. 16, 2012
AIR TEMP. 85 WATER TEMP. 77
DEPTH: 30' VIZIBILITY: 50'
PHOTO BY: STEVE MADARAS

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