Examples of “mild” and “severe” wasting/injury likely due to sea star wasting syndrome

Note: The following photos are intended to be used as a guide for identifying signs of wasting across many species of sea stars. Sea stars respond to many types of stress in a similar manner, so the tissue degradation and injuries shown in these photos may not be due to sea star wasting syndrome. However, all photos are from areas where SSWS was prevalent and thus likely responsible for the conditions shown.
**Pisaster ochraceus**

**Mild**  
Photo: Kayla Balmer

**Severe**  
Photo: John Ugerotz

Photos: Melissa Miner

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Evasterias troschelii

Mild

Photo: Mark Nayer

Severe

Photos: Jeff Harris

Photos: Jan Kocian

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Examples of Mild and Severe Disease
Last updated 2014-12-11

Examples of Mild and Severe Disease
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Pycnopodia helianthoides

Mild

Severe

Note emaciated appearance

Photos: Mark Nayer

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**Pisaster giganteus**

Mild  

Severe

Photos: Leanne Foster
Pisaster brevispinus

Mild

Photos: Mark Nayer

Severe

Photos: Ken Bondy

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Dermasterias imbricata

Mild

Severe

Photo: Ethan Flanagan

Photo: Nate Fletcher

Photos: Mark Nayer
Solaster spp.

Mild

Severe

Photo: Mark Nayer

Photos: Mark Nayer

Photo: Neil McDaniel

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Orthasterias koehlerli

Mild

Severe

No photo available

Photos: Feiro Marine Life Center
Leptasterias spp

Mild

Severe

Photo: Steve Fradkin

Photos: Melissa Miner
Patiria (Asterina) miniata

Mild
• No photo available

Severe

Photo: Ryan Berger
**Pteraster spp.**

**Mild**

![Mild Pteraster Image]

Photo: Mark Nayer

**Severe**

![Severe Pteraster Image]

Photo: Jackie Hildering

Examples of Mild and Severe Disease

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Crossaster papposus

mild

severe

Photos: Neil McDaniel
Henricia spp.

Mild

Photo: Linda Larsen

Note tissue degradation on single (uppermost) arm. Lighter patches on central disk are normal coloration pattern for this species of Henricia

Severe

Photo: Wendy Steffensen