



## Cliona thoosina

### Boring sponge, Sulfur sponge

#### Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
  - Boring Sponges can form encrustations on mollusk shells, particularly oysters, and can burrow into the shell itself, weakening the shell and increasing the vulnerability to predators such as crabs and birds
  - In more severe cases, Boring Sponges can kill the host mollusk and even completely dissolve the shell
  - A fouling organism
2. Invasive potential
  - Larvae are short lived in water column, so localized re-establishment is possible, but long distance dispersal must be facilitated by other means - shipping, oyster spat
3. Geographic extent
  - Locally patchy
4. Management difficulty
  - There are no known methods for eradicating established Boring Sponge populations



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Atlantic Coast
2. Introduced: Alaska

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in open waters
2. Hull/Surface fouling
3. Ballast water and sediments

#### Non-Native Locations

1. 54- Gulf of Alaska

#### Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. [http://contentio.eol.org/content/2010/03/16/03/87833\\_large.jpg](http://contentio.eol.org/content/2010/03/16/03/87833_large.jpg)