



Didemnum lahillei

Tunicate

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - Cellulose is a major component of the tunic
 - Few marine species can digest cellulose, tunicate populations are often not controlled by predation
 - Some tunicates also produce toxins, which further deter predators as well as limiting settling and growth of other species on the tunicates
 - Successful colonizer of gravel and rocky bottoms thought to be important to Georges Bank's highly productive fisheries, and sea scallops
2. Invasive potential
 - An aggressive invader
 - Potential for additional translocations on ships hulls, fouling communities or ballast water
 - Pieces can break off and drift in the current to relocate and start new colonies
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally pervasive



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: European waters, common in the Netherlands and France
2. Introduced: Atlantic Coast from Maine to Virginia, Pacific Coast from Washington to California
3. Habitats
 - Marine, estuaries and bays

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Ballast water and sediments
3. Stocking in open water - oyster and shellfish stock

Non-Native Locations

1. 40- Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy
2. 41- Virginian
3. 56- Puget Trough/ Georgia Basin
4. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver
5. 58- Northern California

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://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov/p3clip_image002.jpg