

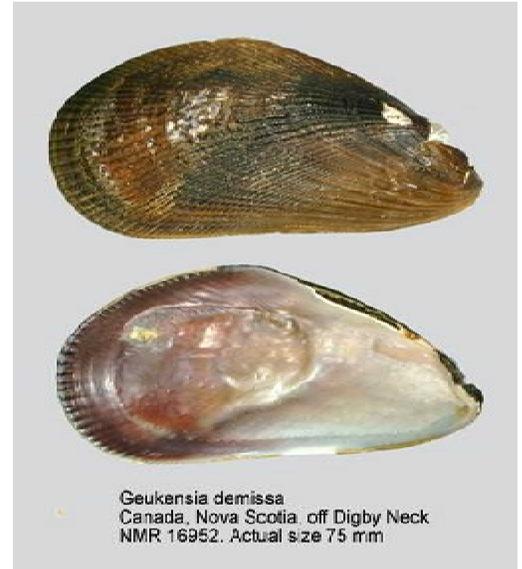


Geukensia demissa

Ribbed mussel, Ribbed horse mussel

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - Toes and probing beaks of California Clapper Rails are frequently caught and clamped between the slightly gaping shells of *Geukensia demissa* that protrude from the mud
 - An average of one or two chicks per brood were caught by mussels and drowned by the incoming tide
 - Clapper Rails in San Francisco Bay are frequently missing one or more toes, and reported Clapper Rails with *Geukensia demissa* clamped to their toes or bills
2. Invasive potential
 - Planktonic larvae have potential to disperse in water column, expanding invasive range
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
 - No successful eradication methods



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Southern Gulf of Lawrence to Florida
2. Introduced: California
 - Habitats
 - Marine, estuaries/bays, intertidal zones, aquaculture
 - Subtidal & intertidal zones in salt marshes, along marsh creeks, occasionally found fouling floating docks
 - Tolerates salinities from nearly freshwater up to 70 ppt
 - Also does well in somewhat polluted water

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in open water - Virginia oysters
2. Natural spread - planktonic larvae
3. Hull/Surface Fouling
4. Short-term disturbances that facilitate introduction
5. Ballast water and sediments

Non-Native Locations

1. 58- Northern California
2. 59- Southern California Bight

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://www.nmr-pics.nl/Mytilidae/album/slides/Geukensia%20demissa.jpg>