



Gonionemus vertens

Clinging jellyfish

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - G. vertens reportedly has an even more potent sting in its original environment in the Seas of Okhotsk and Japan
 - Sensitive humans who come into contact with its stinging cells in that region may suffer severe allergic reactions, resulting in the worst cases in fatal anaphylactic shock
2. Invasive potential
 - Human assisted transport: hull fouling in polyp stage, or accidental with importation of Japanese oysters
 - It can also disperse in the hydromedusae stage in water currents and ballast water
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally patchy



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Inhabits quiet waters of northern Japan and Kamchatka (Russia), and from Alaska's Aleutian Islands to northern California, common in Puget Sound.
2. Introduced: Virginia
3. Habitats
 - Marine, circumboreal along the coast in northern waters, but distribution is localized.

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in open water - oyster farming
2. Natural spread - water currents
3. Hull/Surface Fouling
4. Ballast water and sediments

Non-Native Locations

1. 41- Virginian

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.wallawalla.edu/academics/departments/biology/rosario/inverts/Cnidaria/Class-Hydrozoa/Hydromedusae/Gonionemus_vertensDLC2007-04s.jpg