Mya arenaria

Soft-shelled clam, eastern soft-shell clam, long-necked clam, steamer clam, sand gaper

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
   - "In San Francisco Bay has been found in densities over 100 and sometimes over 1,000 clams per square meter. Reported to have replaced populations of the native bent-nosed clame (Macoma nasuta) in San Francisco Bay - at least in regularly harvested clam beds" (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
   - Widespread invasions of this species. Planktonic larvae spread locally from invaded sites.
3. Geographic extent
   - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
   - No known controls in marine environment.

Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Eastern North America from Labrador to Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, in Alaska north of the Aleutian
2. Peninsula, and in Korea, the Kurile Islands & northern Japan.
3. 1st collected in San Francisco Bay in 1869, introduced with shipments of Atlantic Oysters.
4. "Intentionally planted along Pacific Coast of USA by ships captains in late 1800's. Also spread accidentally through transplantings of oysters" (Molnar 2008).
5. Intertidal zones, estuaries/bays, marine habitats, aquaculture

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in Open Water
   - Accidental known
   - Cause- oyster stocking
   - Intentional stocking of oysters for aquaculture
2. Ballast Water and Sediments
   - Accidental known
   - Cause- ballast water
   - Believed to have been transported to Black Sea in ballast water of tankers
3. Freshwater/Marine Transportation
   - Cause- planktonic larvae
   - Spread locally via planktonic larvae
4. Hull/Surface Fouling
   - Accidental possible
   - Cause- hull fouling
   - Possible, though less likely to be transported on ships hulls and fouling communities

Non native locations

1. 54- Gulf of Alaska
2. 56- Puget Trough / Georgia Basin
3. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver Coast and Shelf
4. 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://www.armofthesea.info/images/animalimgs/ssclam_lg.jpg