Mytilopsis leucophaeata

Brackish water mussel, Conrad's false mussel, dark false mussel

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
   - "Responsible for the fouling of cages, boats, and ropes. This species also causes major fouling impacts in industrial cooling water systems. Competes with barnacles and other filter feeders for habitat and resources" (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
   - "Transported in ship's ballast water, live wells & bilge systems & on recreational boats. Local dispersal could involve diffusion, especially transport during larval stages as veligers" (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
   - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
   - "Biocides are being used to control them. To use these chemicals properly, knowledge of the lifecycle of these organisms is indispensable and monitoring is necessary. More resistant to chlorine than D. polymorpha. Pulse chlorination has been effective" (Molnar 2008).

Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Native to the Gulf of Mexico
2. First introduction: 1930
3. 1st observed in the Gulf of Finland in 1930
4. Brackish water, marine, estuaries/bays, riparian zones, wetlands
5. Highly euryhaline. European populations occupy both freshwater and brackish estuary habitats.

Invasion Pathways

Stowaways in Holds

- Accidental probable
- Local dispersal could involve fouling on boats or transport in live wells or bilge systems (Molnar 2008).

Ballast Water and Sediments

- Accidental probable
- Local dispersal could involve diffusion, especially transport during larval stages as veligers (Molnar 2008).

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.nobanis.org/images/MarineIDKey/03145454_mytilopsis_leucophaeata_besk%C3%A5ret.jpg