



## Ostrea edulis

### Edible oyster

#### Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
  - “Females mature at 50 mm; spawn in summer, can produce over one million eggs, larvae settle within 30 days, suspension feeders, densities can reach 300 per square yard” (Molnar 2008).
  - May be competitive interactions between the European oyster and native species that have yet to be observed.
2. Geographic extent
  - Native to eastern Atlantic. Have established on coast of western Atlantic.
  - Locally pervasive



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Northeastern Atlantic Ocean from Norway to the Mediterranean and Black Sea
2. First introduction: 1950's
3. Introduced: Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Alaska, California, New York, Washington
4. “Possible ballast water introduction. Imported to Maine in 1950's because American oysters do not grow in cooler waters. Spread to Massachusetts in 1980's” (Molnar 2008).
5. Marine, estuaries/bays, temps above 12°C, salinities above 15%
6. “Associated with highly productive estuarine and shallow coastal water habitats of firm bottoms of mud, rocks, muddy sand, muddy gravel with shells and hard silt” (Molnar 2008).

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast Water and Sediments
  - Possible ballast water introduction.
2. Stocking in Open Water
  - Intentional known
  - Cause- oyster farmingImported to Maine in 1950's because American oysters do not grow in cooler waters.

#### Non native locations

1. 40- Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy
2. 41- Virginian
3. 56- Puget Trough/Georgia Basin  
58- Northern California

#### Sources

1. <http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=798&fr=1&sts>
2. 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.
3. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>