



Phyllorhiza punctata

White-spotted Jellyfish

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - “Although not yet proven destructive in Hawaii, this species has had an impact in the Gulf of Mexico; a population explosion led to overconsumption of fish eggs, plankton, and larvae, and to the decline in the populations of fish and other shellfish. *P. punctata* threatens large commercial fisheries of shrimp and crab in the Gulf of Mexico. *P. punctata* also damages boat intakes and fishing gear, and have caused the closure of productive areas to fishing activities” (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
 - “Origin of the medusae that invaded northern Gulf of Mexico waters in the summer of 2000 was attributed to circulation processes associated with the Loop Current and its spin-off eddies by Johnson et al. (2004)” (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally patchy
4. Management difficulty
 - “The very small polyp stage can survive for years. So, it is probably years before we can begin developing a strategy to remove these jellyfish from the affected regions” (Molnar 2008).



Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Australia
 2. First introduction: 1941
 3. “Unintentional, as ship-fouling scyphistomae or as ephyrae in ballast water. Cutress (1961) indicated that this Indo-Pacific jellyfish was introduced from the Philippine Islands, as ship-fouling scyphistomae, into Pearl Harbor between 1941-1945” (Molnar 2008).
1. Estuaries/bays
 2. Harbors, water surface, murky water

Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast Water and Sediments
 - Accidental probable
 - Ephyrae in ballast water
2. Hull/Surface Fouling
 - Accidental probable
 - Hip-fouling scyphistomae

Non native locations

1. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico
2. 59- Southern California Bight
3. 65- Greater Antilles
4. 70- Floridian
5. 152- Hawaiian Islands

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://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/o/o8/Phyllorhiza_punctata_\(White-spotted_jellyfish\).jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/o/o8/Phyllorhiza_punctata_(White-spotted_jellyfish).jpg)