



## Pinctada margaritifera

### Black-lip pearl oyster

#### Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
  - The best black pearls are produced by *P. margaritifera*. Shells used to make jewelry and buttons. No known adverse impacts.
2. Invasive potential
  - Florida unintentional introduction possible as larvae in ballast or fouling communities.
3. Geographic extent
  - An Italian company imported *P. margaritifera* in 1860 for pearl production, but no records of escape or populations in Italy at this time.
  - Locally patchy
4. Management difficulty
  - No known controls in aquatic environment.



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Found throughout the Indo-Pacific Region.
2. First introduction: 1974
3. Recorded from Alexandria and area south of Safaga, Egypt from 1974.
4. Marine, intertidal zones
5. In the Indo-Pacific, lives attached by byssus to hard substrata (under stones, in crevices of rocks, algae), intertidal and subtidal (Cernohorsky, 1972). In Egypt, at depths less than 18m.

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in Open Water
  - Intentional known
  - Cause- aquaculture: oyster farming and pearl production
  - "An Italian company imported *Meleagrina margaritifera* from the Red Sea around 1860; they grew, reproduced and even produced pearls in an aquarium (Bellet, 1899)." [Ref037]

#### Non native locations

1. 70- Floridian

#### 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.elrincondelmalacologo.com/Web%20fotos%20marinos%20no%20gasteropodos/Fotos%20coleccion/Pteriidae/Pinctada%20margaritifera%201.jpg>