Polydora cornuta

Polydora ligni, mud worm

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
   - Established and common. These worms are often so abundant that they bury the oysters in several inches of mud tubes.
2. Geographic extent
   - One account states it has been reported from "just about everywhere in the world."
   - Locally pervasive

Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Entire East Coast of United States
2. First introduction: 1981
3. California 1981. Introduced in commercial oyster plantings on west coast (California).
4. Introduced: California, Oregon, Washington, Gulf coast of Florida
5. Marine, estuaries/bays
6. Marine salinities of 5 ppt.

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in Open Water
   - Accidental known
   - Cause- oyster and scallop farming
   - California 1981. Introduced in commercial oyster plantings on west coast (California).
2. Ballast Water and Sediments
   - Accidental probable
   - Most likely ballast water in Tampa Bay, Florida, but other possible means include ship fouling or with oyster introductions.
3. Hull/Surface Fouling
   - Accidental possible
   - Most likely ballast water in Tampa Bay, Florida, but other possible means include ship fouling or with oyster introductions.

Non-native locations

1. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver Coast and Shelf
2. 58- Northern California
3. 59- Southern California Bight
4. 70- Floridian

Sources

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