



## Sphaeroma walkeri

### Marine Pill Bug, an isopod

#### Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
  - Loss of aquaculture/commercial/recreational harvest.
  - Found in high densities up to 12, 521 per square metre on heavily fouled mariculture cages (Molnar 2008).
  - May endanger habitat restoration effects.
2. Invasive potential
  - A fouling organism requiring assisted transport to expand alien range.
3. Geographic extent
  - Regionally pervasive



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Western South Pacific, Indian Ocean
2. First introduction: 1st found in Florida coastal waters in 1968
3. Introduced via ship hull fouling. Found from Brazil to South Carolina and Liberia to the Congo. Pre 1870 period of spread around Indian Ocean, southern Africa, Australia, post 1870 spread w/opening of Suez Canal, post 1940 spread w/ship traffic.
3. Introduced: Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Florida, California (San Diego Bay), Hawaii
4. Marine, fouling communities, intertidal zones
6. A fouling organism - This is an intertidal species, mostly found in sheltered places, in crevices of rock and wood or empty shells and it is also found on the hulls of ships.

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast Water and Sediments
  - Accidental probable
  - Cause- Ballast water
  - Potential for transport in ballast water
2. Hull/Surface Fouling
  - Accidental known
  - Cause- hull fouling
  - Found in high densities amongst the fouling communities on man-made structures such as vessel hulls and mariculture cages.
3. Aquaculture and Mariculture Activities
  - Accidental probable
  - Cause- transported on mariculture cages
  - Found in high densities amongst the fouling communities on man-made structures such as vessel hulls and mariculture cages.

### Non native locations

1. 43- Northern Gulf of Mexico
2. 58- Northern California
3. 59- Southern California Bight
4. 64- Eastern Caribbean
5. 65- Greater Antilles
6. 70- Floridian
7. 152- Hawaiian Locations

### 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.ecoport.ro/modsis/images/specii/spheroma\\_wallkeri.JPG](http://www.ecoport.ro/modsis/images/specii/spheroma_wallkeri.JPG)
4. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1084>