Alitta succinea

Pileworm, Ragworm

General

- Infaunal polychaete, sedentary worm, growing up to 190 mm in length
- At sexual maturity, benthic adults metamorphose into nektonic heternereids

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
   - Outcompetes and preys upon native species
   - Changes sediment chemistry due to burrowing activity
   - Nutrient changes may affect many species living in the sediments, and it may also promote bacterial activity
   - Able to transfer contaminants from sediment to biota
2. Invasive potential
   - Sedentary worm with planktonic larvae.
   - Low potential to spread from introduced area
3. Geographic extent
   - Regionally patchy

Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Northern European Atlantic Coast
2. Introduced: San Francisco Bay with Crassostrea virginica, spread up the Pacific Coast and Hawaii
3. Habitat
   - Marine habitats, fouling communities, mangroves, shallow lagoons, aquaculture
   - Muddy sediments

Invasion Pathways

1. Ballast &/or Fouling
2. Natural spread - planktonic larvae

Non native locations

1. 57- Or, Wa, Vancouver
2. 58- N. California
3. 59- S. California Bight
4. 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://www.invasivespecies.net/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1068&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN
4. http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=234850