Didemnum cf. lahillei

Tunicate

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
    - Cellulose is a major component of the tunic
    - Few marine species can digest cellulose, tunicate populations are often not controlled by predation
    - Some tunicates also produce toxins, which further deter predators as well as limiting settling and growth of other species on the tunicates
    - Successful colonizer of gravel and rocky bottoms thought to be important to Georges Bank's highly productive fisheries, and sea scallops
2. Invasive potential
    - An aggressive invader
    - Potential for additional translocations on ships hulls, fouling communities or ballast water
    - Pieces can break off and drift in the current to relocate and start new colonies
3. Geographic extent
    - Locally pervasive

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: European waters, common in the Netherlands and France
2. Introduced: Atlantic Coast from Maine to Virginia, Pacific Coast from Washington to California
3. Habitats
    - Marine, estuaries and bays

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface fouling
2. Ballast water and sediments
3. Stocking in open water - oyster and shellfish stock

Non-Native Locations

1. 40- Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy
2. 41- Virginian
3. 56- Puget Trough/ Georgia Basin
4. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver
5. 58- Northern California

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://sh.nefsc.noaa.gov/p3clip_image002.jpg