



Synidotea laevidorsalis

An isopod

Threat scores

1. Ecological impacts
 - “Fouls pilings and buoys. Feeds on hydroids. In some environments it is now the most abundant invertebrate and may be outcompeting similar scavengers for food and habitat space” (Molnar 2008).
 - “The dramatic abundance (in Delaware Bay, USA) of this isopod indicates that there is considerable potential for altering community structure” (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
 - A fouling organism requiring assisted transport to expand alien range. Transported on hulls and in ballast water.
 - Found on ropes and buoys used to deploy oyster spat collection bags.
3. Geographic extent
 - Cross continental/oceanic spread.
 - Locally patchy
4. Management difficulty
 - Cleaning ships hulls, ocean exchange of ballast water helps stem spread.



Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Western Pacific Ocean region
2. First introduction: 1897
3. Probable ship hull fouling introduction. Reported in San Francisco Bay, California 1897.
4. Marine habitats, estuaries/bays, brackish water
5. Found in temperate to subtropical estuaries in shallow water; brackish water to full seawater.

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface Fouling
2. Accidental probable
3. Probable ship hull fouling introduction.

Non native Locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 42- Carolinian
3. 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.
1. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
2. http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/o4etta/background/isopods/media/synidotea_laevidorsalis_310.jpg