

Aquatic Invasive Species and Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why be concerned about aquatic invasive species?

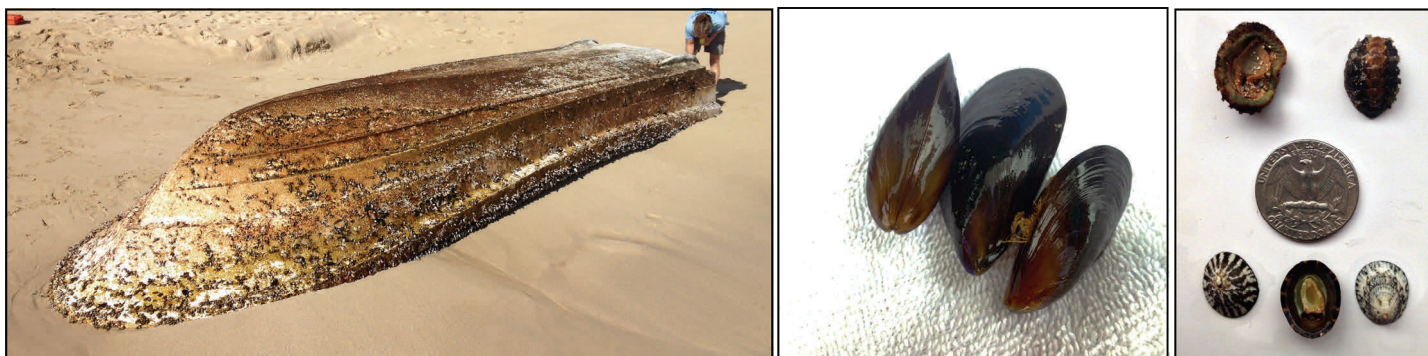
- Submerged items such as docks, boats, and aquaculture equipment that were in the ocean for an extended period, before being swept out to sea, may be covered in marine growth (aka biofouling) of Japanese origin. These organisms could pose environmental, human health, and economic threats to Hawaii were they to establish here.

I see a lot of marine debris in Hawaii. Should I be worried about aquatic invasive species on this debris?

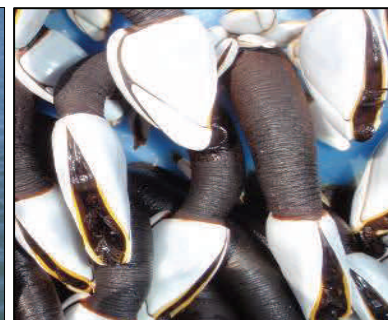
- It is hard to determine which species will cause harm to Hawaii's resources and which ones won't. One species that is not of concern is the Gooseneck barnacle (pictured below). This species is common across the Pacific and is not considered an invasive species threat. The light bulb pictured below is a good example of something that need not be reported and should be disposed of properly.

What to do if marine debris is found?

- If you find marine debris with any biofouling other than Gooseneck barnacles, please report it asap by calling **(808) 587-0400** or emailing **DLNR.marine.debris@hawaii.gov** and **DisasterDebris@noaa.gov** with a description and, if possible, clear photos. If the item is small enough to handle safely, please remove it from the shore and place well above the high tide mark to prevent any biofouling from entering back into the ocean.



Clockwise from left: Large skiff covered in growth; Blue mussels not native to Hawaii; Chiton and limpets not native to Hawaii; Light bulb with Gooseneck barnacles; Gooseneck barnacles which are not a concern.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: VISIT [HTTP://DLNR.HAWAII.GOV](http://DLNR.HAWAII.GOV)