



Marine Invasive Species!



**PREVENT
THE
SPREAD
OF MARINE
INVADERS!**

**✓ CLEAN
✓ DRAIN
✓ DRY**



Catie Bursch
Kachemak Bay Research Reserve
(907) 235-NERR
catie.bursch@alaska.gov

The pictured invasive sea squirt, *Didemnum vexillum*, (Dvex), was found in Whiting Harbor in Sitka. In suitable environmental conditions it can spread over boat hulls, docks, pilings, and other hard surfaces, as well as seafloor substrate. This invader can also smother algae, sea grasses and slow moving organisms such as clams, oysters, mussels, and other invertebrates.

Photo credit: NOAA, 2010



Marine invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can harm ecosystems that support native species. By crowding out native species, these invaders can negatively impact the marine environment. While not confirmed in Kachemak Bay, non-native marine species are most commonly introduced in places with high human traffic, such as boats and harbors. Marine invaders hitchhike on infrastructure transported from these locations causing their spread. A few simple steps can help protect our Bay and ensure marine invaders do not take over:

- At a minimum, DRY by storing above high tide for 3 weeks;
- If possible, CLEAN (scrape or power wash) plants and animals from all equipment away from the water and dispose in the garbage at an upland site;
- DRAIN water from any reservoirs.

Clean, drain, and dry. Every time.

