

KACHEMAK BAY RESEARCH RESERVE

Invasive Tunicate Monitoring

2013 Progress Report

The main goal of invasive tunicate monitoring with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is to detect invasive tunicates as soon as possible, should they arrive.

This is the 8th year KBRR has checked settling plates for invasive species (three times per year) in both the Homer and Seldovia Harbors.



Diving and looking beneath the surface!

Taking advantage of NOAA divers coming to the area this summer, we asked them to survey what was growing on the Halibut Cove public dock. Visibility was not great due to glacial silt but a survey was conducted and no invasives were detected. Next year we will be experimenting with underwater Go-Pros!

KBRR has two **tunicate guides** that can be found at: www.kbayrr.org

Thank-you, Volunteers!

Tania Spurkland of Seldovia and **Tadhg Scholz** from Homer both continue to help check the settling plates. Thanks!

If you would like to become involved in our community monitoring programs, contact Catie Bursch at catie.bursch@alaska.gov



Checking lines near Nikiski dock.

The Nikiski dock receives vessels that discharge ballast water which can be a vector for invasive species. We went nearby to see what was growing on anchor lines used for setnetting salmon. A big thanks to Eric Beman and Mike McNulty who invited Catie Bursch onboard to take samples as they worked. 14 species of invertebrates were collected, none were found to be invasive.



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