

The introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species into the coastal waters of Alaska may pose a serious environmental and economic threat. Fifteen non-indigenous species (NIS) have already been found in the sound, and are believed to have been transported in oil tanker ballast water, on vessel hulls, and in sediment taken into ballast tanks during ballasting in shallow ports.

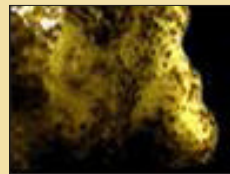
What is at risk?

Prince William Sound is a critical habitat for many subsistence and commercially harvested species such as salmon, crab, scallops, herring, walleye, pollock, cod, rockfish, sablefish, squid, and clams. It is home to orca and humpback whales, Steller sea lions, Dall's and harbor porpoises, sea otters, and a host of other animals that depend on Prince William Sound's rich resources. This area's economy also relies on sport fishing and tourism, which may be impacted by a non-indigenous species invasion.

Not all non-indigenous species are invasive, but the council monitors Prince William Sound for the presence of aquatic NIS and effects they could have on indigenous species.

15 NIS Already in Prince William Sound

Below are the NIS species that have been found in Prince William Sound. With the exception of the Atlantic Salmon, it is not yet known whether these species pose a serious threat to the sound's environment.



Boring Sponge
Porifera, Cliona thosina



Rockweed
Phaeophyta, Fucus cottoni



Dead Man's Fingers
Chlorophyta, Codium fragile



Single Horn Bryozoan
Bryozoa, Schizoporella unicornis



Pacific Oyster
Mollusca-Bivalvia, Crassostrea gigas



Tunicate
Chordata-Ascidiacea, Botrylloides violaceus



Giant Sea Kelp
Phaeophyta, Macrocystis integrifolia



Foraminiferan
Sacodina-Foraminifera, Trochammina hadai



Softshell Clam
Mollusca-Bivalvia, Mya arenaria



Tube Dwelling Amphipod
Crustacea-Amphipoda, Jassa marmorata



Capitellid Worm
Annelida-Polychaeta, Heteromastus filiformis



Red Alga NW Pacific
Rhodophyta, Chroodactylon ramosum

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Red Alga NE Pacific
Rhodophyta, Ceramium sinicola

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Brown Alga
Phaeophyta, Microspongium globosum

Be on the Lookout!

The two species pictured below have NOT been found in Prince William Sound, but could pose a serious threat anywhere in Alaska's waters.

European Green Crab
Carcinus maenas



Chinese Mitten Crab
Eriocheir sinensis



The Atlantic Salmon has been found in Prince William Sound and may pose a serious threat. Report sightings to Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 1-877-468-2748.

see also:
www.pwsrca.org/projects/NIS/index.html
www.invasivespecies.gov
www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/invasive/invasive.php

If you think you've seen a non-indigenous aquatic species, call the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game or contact us.