

# ALERT!



# INVASIVE!

Non-native Botryllid tunicates have arrived in Alaska! These tunicates have been found in Sitka, Ketchikan and Homer, Alaska. The **SETL** program was started in 2007 as a collaborative effort of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the San Francisco State University to monitor for non-native tunicates and to study changes in native marine invertebrate populations. The **SETL** program now includes partnerships with key state agencies and community volunteers in many Alaska coastal communities. If interested in joining us, please contact: [mccannl@si.edu](mailto:mccannl@si.edu)







Gary Freitag



Heather Meuret-Woody



Gary Freitag



Patrick Lee

## WHAT?

**Tunicates**, or sea squirts, are marine invertebrates that attach to hard surfaces such as rocks, piers, boats and docks. Composed mostly of water, they are soft and slimy. **Non-native** tunicates have been introduced by humans into Alaskan waters.

## HOW?

**Tunicates** are introduced to Alaska through human activity, often hitching rides from one place to another on ships.

## WHY CARE?

**Invasive tunicates can have harmful economic, ecological, or environmental impacts.** In uncontrolled numbers, invasive tunicates can damage aquaculture, fishing, or marine gear. They can out-compete or suffocate native oysters and mussels, affecting commercial industries.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. *Clean your boat hull before you transit from one harbor to another.*
2. *Educate yourself and others.*

Before moving your boat to a new location, clean your hull. Scrape off all tunicates. Dispose of the tunicates in a dumpster, leave them to dry out on the dock or soak them in a bucket of fresh water for several days. Also check any gear that spends long period of time in the water.

**TO REPORT POTENTIALLY INVASIVE TUNICATES  
CALL ALASKA FISH AND GAME AT:**

# 1-877-INVASIV