

## Invasive kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*)

*Undaria pinnatifida* is an opportunistic, fast growing invasive kelp that is spreading along the coast of California. Uncontrolled, it can become a pest species on boat hulls, moorings, ropes, fishing gear, docks and aquaculture structures and is capable of having profound effects on native ecosystems.

*Undaria* was first reported from the LA-Long Beach Harbor in 2000. It has been found in numerous marinas in Southern California, including at a mooring on Catalina Island. It became established in Monterey Harbor in 2001, and was identified in Half Moon Bay and two marinas in San Francisco Bay in 2009. Based on its environmental tolerances, *Undaria* could potentially range from Southeast Alaska to Baja California. It can spread by hitchhiking on boats, anchors, floats and aquaculture gear.

Your help is needed to report new sightings! Early detection can help prevent further spreading. You can also assist by inspecting your boat and slip and removing *Undaria* if you find it, especially before getting underway.

### What you can do

- Learn to identify the invasive kelp *Undaria pinnatifida*
- Look for this kelp while enjoying our waterways
- Regularly inspect and remove fouling from your boat, especially before cruising to a new location
- Contact us to join efforts to detect and manage *Undaria*

If you believe you have found *Undaria*, please take a photograph and upload it at [Undaria.nisbase.org](http://Undaria.nisbase.org). Remove the kelp if you can do so safely and store in a plastic bag until we can confirm its identity.

Do not dispose of it in the water. If you have questions, contact us at **(415) 435-7128, [marineinvaders@gmail.com](mailto:marineinvaders@gmail.com)**.



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# Invasive kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*) WATCH

Report suspected sightings to [Undaria.nisbase.org](http://Undaria.nisbase.org)



## How to Identify Invasive Kelp *Undaria pinnatifida*

*Undaria* is distinctive: color, shape and texture will aid in identification

- Golden brown color
- Texture: crinkly and slightly slimy
- Shape: young blades are oval and undivided; older individuals have finger-like projections
- Both young and old plants have central mid-rib
- Older plants have a thick, frilly reproductive structure
- Plants attach with root-like “holdfasts”
- Plants 1 inch to over 9 feet
- Found in low intertidal to depths of 45 feet
- Undaria* does not have gas bladders or floats like the native giant kelp

