

Prince Edward Island Invasive Species Council  
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FOPO Committee Chair, MP Ken McDonald Ken.McDonald@parl.gc.ca

Cc: Committee Clerk, Ms. Nancy Vohl, at Nancy.Vohl@parl.gc.ca

Chair MacDonald:

Invasive species have complicated the ecosystems of the estuarian waters of PEI for since 1998, causing significant changes to fish habitat and impacting wild species.

Species such as clubbed tunicate, golden star tunicate violet tunicate have had detrimental effects on cultured mussels. Green crab has heavily impacted clam populations. These aquatic invasive species (AIS) have negatively affected the ecology of our estuaries and local economies, as losses occur due to predation and expensive control measures are employed.

DFO Science has been monitoring for the presence of AIS around PEI and throughout the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence for a number of years to monitor the movement of the AIS that are present and also keeping a watch out for any new invaders. Once such species that is present in the State of Maine and has been found in the Bay of Fundy is *Didemum vexillum*, or the pancake batter tunicate, an aggressive growing colonial tunicate similar to the golden star and violet tunicate species that are currently present. This species has had significant impacts on the aquaculture sector and fish habitat in BC and on the East coast of the US.

The aquaculture industry and the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Aquaculture Division are also actively engaged in monitoring and developing AIS management techniques for aquaculturists.

Through a DFO licencing process, the industry and the provincial government have been engaged in restricting shellfish movements around and into PEI to help prevent the further spread of AIS. There have been successes, but we are only controlling one vector while many others exist. The new AIS regulation under the Fisheries Act may help address other vectors.

We support the motion of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans that specifically mandates a study focussing on:

- a) the Department's resources dedicated to preventing and eliminating aquatic invasive species;
- b) and whether such resources are distributed across Canada in an equitable and consistent manner and
- c) whether the AIS program has the resources required to be effective in its mandate.

Sincerely,



Barry Murray

Council Member

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