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# The Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Strategy and Action Plan

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat B Reports

June 7, 2017

Juneau, Alaska



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# The Arctic Council approved the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan at their May 11, 2017 Ministerial Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska



**ARCTIC COUNCIL**

# Who is the Arctic Council?

The Arctic Council is a high-level international forum for political discussions on common issues of the Arctic States and their inhabitants.



Canada



Denmark



Finland



United States of America



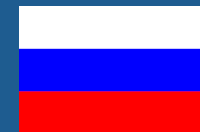
Sweden



Iceland



Norway



Russian Federation

# Why is there concern for invasive species in the Arctic?

## Invasive Species are—

- non-native species that cause harm to the environment, economies, or human health
- a significant and rapidly emerging threat to Arctic ecosystems and those who depend on them

# What is the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan?

*The plan provides a framework for Arctic stakeholders to address the threat and introduction of invasive species.*

The plan encourages Arctic States and their partners to take **priority actions** in three categories—

1. Inspire urgent and effective action.
2. Improve the knowledge base for well-informed decision making
3. Undertake prevention and early detection/rapid response initiatives.

*The plan has no requirements for Member States and implementation is voluntary.*

# What are the Next Steps?

NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region and NOAA International are participating in Arctic Council Working Groups and a U.S. Interagency Working Group that are exploring opportunities to implement the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan.

Arctic Council Working Groups are Writing an Implementation Plan Proposal

NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region is looking to contribute to implementation with a Pribilof Island Marine Invasive Species Monitoring Project

Engagement of Alaskan communities is a goal for implementation efforts



# What does the ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan mean for fisheries?

- Some Arctic Council working delineations of the “Arctic” include the Bering Sea.
- Freshwater and marine invasive species could impact resources of concern to the NPFMC and commercial fishermen.
- Commercial fishing vessels could be unwitting vectors to spread invasive species.
- We have an *opportunity* to implement the priority actions in this plan to raise awareness, improve the knowledge base, and undertake prevention and rapid response to control invasive species spread to the Arctic, while working with the commercial fishing industry and multiple levels of government.



# Some Marine Invasive Species of Concern to Alaska



*Didemnum vexillum*, colonial tunicate discovered in Sitka and infesting a large area of the Georges Banks fishing grounds

European Green Crab: An Invasive Species Moving North Towards Alaska



# Questions?

Photo copyright: L. Shaw

Arctic Council Website:  
<http://www.arctic-council.org/>

Link to ARIAS Strategy and Action Plan:  
<https://www.caff.is/strategies-series/415-arctic-invasive-alien-species-strategy-and-action-plan>