

Non Native Marine Invasive Species

Alert

Wireweed

Scientific name: *Sargassum muticum*

Native to: North-western Pacific shores

Habitat: Hard surfaces in shallow coastal water rarely deeper than 5 m

Key ID Features: Olive-brown in colour, small flat blades, round air bladders, can be over 1m in length.

A non-native seaweed initially introduced to France as a hitchhiker on oysters either from Canada or Japan. It spreads rapidly, approximately 30 km per year along the coast of the UK, through very fast growth rate and production of numerous spores. It prefers warmer waters, but will tolerate a wide range of temperatures and salinity including estuarine conditions. Wireweed can be a pest in harbours, shallow waters and on beaches, interfering with recreational use of waterways with detached plants forming large floating masses which can block propellers and intakes. It can also foul oyster beds and fishermen's nets and competes with native plants such as sea grasses. Branches die back in winter leaving only holdfast.



If you see this species please record the following details:

- Location of species
- Date and time of sighting
- Depth of water
- Photographs taken ?

with your name and contact details.

and report to Tony Glen (searchiom@hotmail.com) or Philippa Tomlinson (philippa.tomlinson@gov.im).

