

## CLAVELINA MARINE PESTS



### *Clavelina oblonga* and *Clavelina lepadiformis*

#### What are *Clavelina*?

*Clavelina oblonga* and *Clavelina lepadiformis* are two types of sea squirt, or ascidian, that have recently established in New Zealand waters. We need your help to track their spread so we can learn more about their impact. This helps us make good biosecurity decisions that will go further to protect New Zealand's amazing marine environment.

#### The threat

While they are nice to look at, these *Clavelina* are marine pests that form dense colonies that grow on natural and built structures and stationary species. They feed on tiny particles that they filter from the water and compete with other species for food. For these reasons they present a risk to New Zealand's aquaculture industry and local ecosystems.

#### How to identify these two *Clavelina*

The colonies of both these *Clavelina* species are made up of many transparent and gelatinous individuals that are about 2cm long.

*Clavelina oblonga* was first found around Great Barrier Island in 2019. It originates from North America, the Caribbean, Brazil and some parts of the Mediterranean.



Photo courtesy of S. Happy, Auckland Council

*Clavelina lepadiformis* was recently found in the Auckland region, after being first detected in Nelson. Commonly called the "lightbulb sea squirt", it is originally from the waters around Britain and Ireland.

#### If you think you have seen something:



Take a photo



Collect a sample



Record location



Call 0800 80 99 66

All calls are confidential



(Photo courtesy of C. Woods, NIWA)

#### How do they spread?

*Clavelina* species are spread by vessels, ballast water, and movement of aquaculture equipment and stock.

#### What you can do protect New Zealand's harbours and oceans

Keeping your boat and equipment clean is the best thing you can do to avoid spreading marine pests and diseases, including these *Clavelina*.

- Check, clean and dry your boat and equipment, including fishing and diving gear, before you move to a new spot. A bucket of fresh water and detergent is all you need.
- Keep your boat hull free of foul. It should have nothing more than a thin layer of slime.
- Inspect and clean your boat hull regularly. Check nooks and crannies such as the rudder, propeller, bait tanks and anywhere that could hold water. Remove any marine life and dispose in the rubbish back on land – not overboard.
- Apply antifouling paint to your vessel hull, when moored.

#### What to do if you find *Clavelina*

If you spot either of these *Clavelina* species, take a photo, record your location and phone the Pest and Disease Hotline: 0800 80 99 66. Sometimes, we may ask you to collect a sample – if that's the case, we'll step you through how to do this without disturbing and spreading it.

For information on other known marine pests in New Zealand, visit the Marine Biosecurity Porthole: [www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz](http://www.marinebiosecurity.org.nz)

