

isopod (*Synidotea laticauda*)

This small invasive crustacean is native to the Pacific Ocean, but is now established on the Atlantic coast of the United States. Its appearance in 1999, both in South Carolina and New Jersey, and its absence from the intervening coastline strongly suggest human-mediated introductions, probably associated with the maritime industry in ballast water or as a hull-fouler. Although not much is known of the abundance and distribution of the species in South Carolina, it is generally found fouling buoy and crab pot lines and floating docks in brackish to high-salinity reaches of coastal waters. To date, it has been

photo courtesy of David Bushek, Haskins Shellfish Research Laboratory, Rutgers University



found in the Charleston Harbor area, in the vicinity of St. Helena Sound, and on the northern coast of Georgia. In Delaware Bay, it shows seasonal peaks in abundance, and it can become extremely numerous during the warm months, reaching densities as high as 30,000 in one week in a 2'x3' tray containing oysters and mussels that were suspended from a dock. It is most commonly found among hydroids, bryozoans and algae of fouling communities.