



Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory

Boaters Asked to Help Halt Spread of Asian Kelp

SACRAMENTO – Federal, state and local agencies are urging boaters, marina and yacht club operators, and the general public to help halt the spread of Asian Kelp. This aquatic invasive species, also known as *Undaria pinnatifida*, has been found in Northern California.

All boaters and anyone who accesses the San Francisco Bay and Half Moon Bay areas are being asked to take the following steps to halt the spread of the Asian Kelp:

- Report any observations of this kelp to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) at (443) 482-2200.
- Identify the exact location.
- If possible, remove the kelp and send photographs to SERC to confirm identity.
- Store the sample in a plastic bag in a cooler or refrigerator until its identity has been confirmed.
- Avoid moving contaminated (infected) vessels or equipment.
- Clean boats before moving or returning home. Specifically:
 - * Clean boat hull, underwater running gear, and internal seawater systems before traveling beyond home region, especially if visiting major ports, international waters, islands or event with boats from many places.
 - * Clean the boat again before moving to another region or returning home.
 - * If boat is heavily fouled after such trips, haul it for cleaning upon arrival and contain the fouling growth.
 - * Drain livewells, bait tanks and bilge water before traveling and before returning.
 - * Do not throw the kelp back in the water.

Additional information about how to prevent the spread of the Asian Kelp and other saltwater aquatic invasive species, or how to order educational material, or to volunteer for removal and survey efforts may be found on www.dbw.ca.gov.