

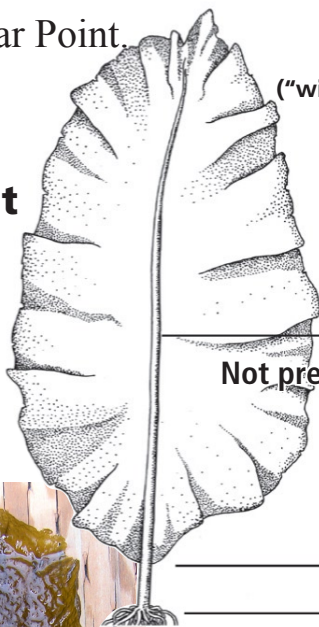
ALERT!

Have you seen this kelp?

Undaria pinnatifida is a quick-growing, **non-native** kelp, occurring in Southern California and Monterey. Uncontrolled, it can become a fouling species on ship hulls, nets, fishing gear, moorings, ropes and other marine structures and is capable of having a profound influence on the ecosystem. Recently, small populations have been found in San Francisco Bay and Pillar Point.

young plant

undivided blade
(lacks pinnae)

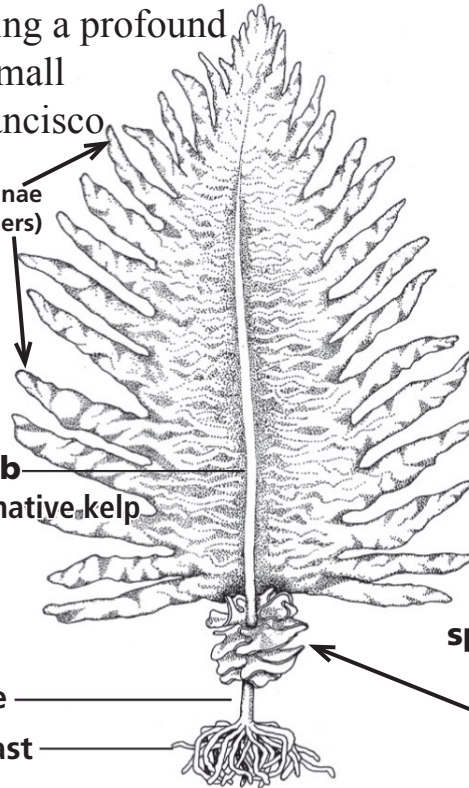


pinnae
("wings"/"fingers")

midrib
Not present in native kelp

stipe

holdfast



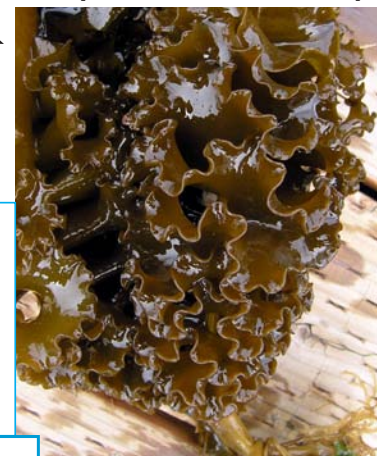
mature plant
(not to scale)

sporophyll - Reproductive part
Not present in native kelp

Illustration © Rob Gough



An *Undaria* plant found in a S.F. Bay marina, estimated to have grown to this size (approx. 6 feet) in 2 months



Where does it live and grow?

Commonly found in marinas.

Hard surfaces including rocks, wood, plastic, rope, buoys, docks, pilings, and on vessel hulls.

Found in the low intertidal zone to depths of approximately 15 feet.

How can I help?

Boat owners, harbor visitors and divers can inspect vessel hulls, boat slips, moorings, docks and piers. Report any observations North of Monterey and if possible send photos.



Smithsonian Environmental
Research Center



Contact us to join the volunteer effort to detect and control this invasive kelp

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