

## Friends of Penobscot Bay

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### INVASIVE SPECIES OVERSIGHT

**PROBLEM.** Penobscot Bay's fisheries and entire ecosystem can be significantly changed when an invasive species successfully colonizes the bay ecosystem. Knowing what invasions are presently underway can help fishermen retool their fisheries when necessary to exploit the changed ecological balance.

The common periwinkle, *Littorina littorea*, was introduced to Maine in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and quickly wiped out most of Maine's coastal saltmarshes. The Baltic green crab, also a 19<sup>th</sup> century invader, has reduced Maine softshell clam abundance to a tiny fraction of their former abundance. Both have successfully colonized our bay.

**Objective.** Determine presence of several newer invasive species in Penobscot Bay: the invasive seasquirt *Didemnum Vexillum*, Asian shorecrab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* and invasive red seaweed *Heterosiphonia japonica*. bryozoan, the fouling bryozoan *Membranipora membranacea*, and the which may cover much or all of kelp blades (*Laminaria* sp.).

**Methods.** Consult fishermen, sailors, divers, scientists and agencies about their knowledge on newer invasives in bay. Followup with drop camera and SCUBA surveys of samples of each variety of Penobscot Bay seafloor areas. Share results with researchers, fishermen and regulators to determine if the new colonizing organisms will require any changes in bay fisheries.

