

Stop

The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of Jeffrey Cordell, University of Washington

Invasive Copepods

Oithona davisae

Pseudodiaptomus forbesi

Report Sightings

@

InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov

July 2017



What are they?

O. davisae and *P. forbesi* are copepods (small aquatic crustaceans related to shrimp) that are native to East Asia. *O. davisae* is about ½ millimeter long, and *P. forbesi* is about 1 millimeter long.

Are they here yet?

Yes, invasive zooplankton have been found in the Columbia River and Salish Sea.

Why should I care?

Once a population is established, eradication is not possible. Both species have been known to replace native copepod species, potentially altering the food chain by reducing populations of native copepod prey for plankton-eating species.

What should I do if I find one?

Because they are so small, realistically you won't be aware of their presence unless you're looking for them under a microscope. But just in case, you can report a sighting online at www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml.

How can we stop them?

These copepods have spread from their native ranges through ballast water on ships. Ships take up ballast water from one part of the world, then release it elsewhere, carrying marine invasive species with it. Exchanging ballast water before reaching a new port is not 100% effective, but this combined with treating ballast water are the best way to prevent movement of these invasive copepods and other species.



Photograph courtesy of Jeffrey Cordell, University of Washington

Where do I get more information?

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife:
 - *O. davisae*: invasions.si.edu/nemesis/calnemo/SpeciesSummary.jsp?TSN=88825
 - *P. forbesi*: invasions.si.edu/nemesis/calnemo/SpeciesSummary.jsp?TSN=-218

Report
Sightings

@

invasivespecies.wa.gov