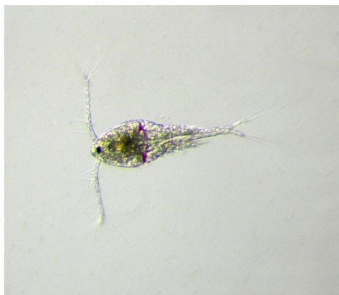


Photo: Jeffery R. Cordell, University of Washington



Invasive Zooplankton



O. davisae. Photo: Jeffery R. Cordell, University of Washington

What Are They?

These zooplankton (*Oithona davisae* and *Pseudodiaptomus forbesi*) are small copepods (crustaceans related to shrimp) native to East Asia.

Are They Here Yet?

Yes, invasive zooplankton are in the Columbia River and Salish Sea.

Why Should I Care?

Once established, eradication is impossible. They can replace native copepods, altering the food chain by reducing plankton-eating fish, such as salmon.

What Are Their Characteristics?

O. davisae is about half a millimeter long; *P. forbesi* about 1 millimeter long.

How Can We Stop Them?

Ships spread these copepods when they take up ballast water (used for stabilization) in one part of the world, then release it and the copepods it contains, elsewhere. Exchanging ballast water before reaching a new port does not stop completely the spread of invasive species but when combined with treating ballast water, is the best way to prevent the spread of invasive copepods.

What Should I Do If I Find One?

Report immediately via the WA Invasives mobile app or reporting web form at <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/>.



P. forbesi. Photo: Jeffery R. Cordell, University of Washington

