



Wireweed

AKA Japanese weed, Strangle weed

Key Facts

- Large size (> 1 m)
- Olive brown colour
- Covers boats and fishing gear
- Damages oyster & mussel populations
- Spreads through floating fragments or through attachment to boats and shellfish

Distinctive, large seaweed, reaching over a metre in length. Has a tough wiry stem with regularly alternating branches which hang like washing from a line when held out of the water.

Native to the Pacific Ocean, it spreads via hull fouling of boats and in commercial oyster stocks.



Habitat

Marine and estuarine. Found on hard surfaces less than 5 m deep.

Impacts

Fast growing, outcompetes native species. Clogs up propellers, fishing gear and oyster beds. Obstructs swimming and sailing.



Don't confuse it with...
 Rainbow wrack
 (*Cystoseira tamariscifolia*)

- Small native species, less than 50 cm in length
- Fern-like appearance, with dense branches covered in spines.
- Dark brown with blue-green iridescence when underwater



REPORT IT - STOP THE SPREAD

Use the free smartphone app **'That's Invasive!'** to ID and report invasive species.