

## NOTICE TO MARINERS

### No6 – 2018

#### HEYSHAM HARBOUR

### POTENTIAL SPREAD OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES CARPET SEA SQUIRT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, following the damage caused by Storm Emma in March 2018 to Holyhead Marina, Natural England has issued a notice warning about the possible spread of Carpet Sea Squirt *Didemnum vesillum* (referred to as D.vex) from Holyhead Marina.

D.vex is an invasive alien species that smothers native species and shellfish beds, causing bio-fouling of fishing and aquaculture gear and other marine infrastructure, such as docks and moorings. Debris from Holyhead Marina with D.vex possibly attached has been found in Ireland, and there are concerns that more debris may appear along the Irish Sea coastline.

The images below illustrate D.vex covering a polystyrene pontoon and in the marine environment:



All sightings of possible *D.vex* infested debris from Holyhead Marina must be reported to Natural England ([jan.maclennan@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:jan.maclennan@naturalengland.org.uk)). Sightings can also be reported by completing the form available from [http://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/alert.php?species=carpet\\_seasquirt](http://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/alert.php?species=carpet_seasquirt).

Where it is possible and safe to do so, any marine debris infested by *D.vex* should be moved above the high water line to prevent it returning to the sea.

If sighted at sea, Mariners are requested to photograph the debris and e-mail those photographs, along with the date of the sighting and location coordinates, to Natural England ([jan.maclennan@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:jan.maclennan@naturalengland.org.uk)).

Further information to assist in the identification of *D.Vex* is available from <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?pageid=155>.

Further information for recreational water users regarding the spread of invasive species and the Check-Clean-Dry campaign is available from <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/documents/check-clean-dry-poster.pdf>