Marine Algae (Seaweeds)







Codium fragile subsp. *fragile*
Green Fleece, Dead Man's Fingers

Non-Native

Identification

- Bright green (bleached white when dead)
- Up to 3 feet tall
- Very distinct, spongy, rounded branches
- Attaches to surfaces in tide pools and shallow coastal waters, also found washed up on beaches

Distribution

- First reported in Long Island Sound in the 1950s
- Found throughout New England and the Canadian Maritimes
- Native to the Northwest Pacific

Colpomenia peregrina
Sea Potato

Non-Native

Identification

- Yellowish brown
- Up to 4 inches wide
- Cushion- or bubble-shaped
- Thin skinned and papery, tears easily
- Hollow, collapses when out of water



Distribution

- First reported in Canada in the 1960s and in New England by the early 2010s
- Found in the Canadian Maritimes and south to Rhode Island
- Native to the Northwest Pacific

Grateloupia turuturu
Devil's Tongue Weed

Non-Native

Identification

- Pink, red, or reddish brown
- Size ranges from small, kidney-shaped blades (less than 1 foot) to longer blades (typically under 3 feet)
- Slippery texture
- Grows singly or in clumps
- Smooth or "frilly" edges



Distribution

- First reported in Rhode Island in the 1990s, found north of Boston Harbor after 2010
- Found throughout New England to mid-coast Maine, spreading north
- Native to the Northwest Pacific

Marine Algae: Similar Species



Leathesia marina
Sea Cauliflower, Sea Potato

Native

- Yellowish brown, up to 4 inches wide
- Spongy, gelatinous but firm, will break into fragments when crushed
- Globular, brain-like appearance
- Maintains its shape out of water
- Visually similar to *C. peregrina*, especially at small sizes (see below)





Phylum Rhodophyta
Red Algae

Native, Non-Native, and Cryptogenic Species

- Several red algae species may be mistaken for *G. turuturu*—however, there are di˝erences on closer inspection
- *Palmaria palmata* (dulse) has thick, leathery, dark-red or brownish blades
- *Grinnellia americana* has delicate, translucent, light- to medium-pink blades with a faint midrib and sometimes small, bumpy spots (reproductive structures)
- *Porphyra* spp. (nori) and *Pyropia* spp. (multiple species both native and non-native) have tissue-paper thin, translucent, reddish-brown blades with no rib



The thick, leathery blades of *P. palmata* (above), contrasted with the delicately thin blades of *G. americana* (left) and *Porphyra* sp. (right).

