What is the Marine Invader Monitoring and Information Collaborative (MIMIC)?

- MIMIC is a partnership between state and federal agencies, scientific experts, and nonprofits to monitor marine invasive species found along the New England coast.
- Since 2008, trained volunteers have monitored species at over 130 sites. Currently, 10 partners and more than 100 citizen scientists monitor 60+ sites from Massachusetts to Maine.

MIMIC Goals:

- Provide early detection of potential invaders to our region.
- Understand regional patterns of established invasive species.
- Educate the public about marine invasive species.
- Provide data to all interested users.
- Get outside and have fun!

What are invasive species?

- Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that are introduced by humans to a new location and cause harm or have the potential to cause harm to the environment, economy, or public health.
- There are more than 60 documented introduced marine species in the New England region.
- Over half of all marine introductions are attributed to shipping (attached to the hull or in ballast water).
- Other “vectors” for marine introduction include aquaculture, pet aquarium trade, and live seafood trade.

How does MIMIC work?

- We look for 18 species that are established in New England.
- Species monitored include seaweeds, tunicates (sea squirts), and crustaceans (shrimp, crabs).
- We monitor docks, tide pools, and cobble shorelines during the summer.
- We record conditions at the site and then search for an hour for species on our targeted list.

Add your species photos to the MIMIC project on iNaturalist!

- Check out our project page - www.inaturalist.org/projects/mimic.
- Create a free account on the web or with the iNaturalist app on your phone and join the “MIMIC” project to add your observations (please add photos and identify the species to the best of your ability).

Need more information?

- The MIMIC Coordinator is happy to answer any questions!
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- See the Marine Invasive Species Program Website - www.mass.gov/marine-invasive-species-program