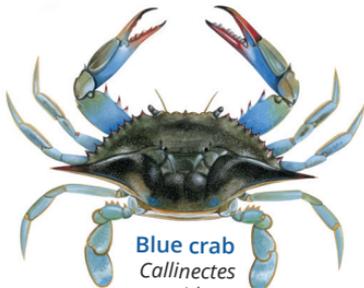


## Mini guide to invasive marine species



**Blue crab**  
*Callinectes  
sapidus*

Native to the Atlantic coast of North America. A voracious predator feeding on native shellfish.



**Bluespotted cornetfish**  
*Fistularia commersonii*

A tropical fish spreading throughout the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal. Reproduces and develops rapidly, feeds on young native fish causing biodiversity loss and damaging ecosystems.



**Silver-cheeked toadfish**  
*Lagocephalus scleratus*

Native to Indian Ocean, entered the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal. Extremely poisonous, maximum published weight is 7 kg.



**Macroalga**  
*Rugulopteryx okamurae*

First detected in the Strait of Gibraltar region in 2015, spread rapidly at depths between 0–50 m resulting in substantial ecological impacts.



**Lionfish**  
*Pterois miles*

Native to Indian Ocean, entered the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal. A voracious predator bearing 13 venomous spines, highly adaptive and capable of causing extinctions and severely reducing biodiversity.



**Caprellid amphipod**  
*Caprella scaura*

Its worldwide distribution has likely resulted from transport by hull fouling, ballast water, and other forms of aquaculture above oyster farming.





The **Gibraltar Marine Reserve** includes the entirety of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) and includes the Southern Waters of Gibraltar, a Special Area of Conservation. BGTW has long been recognized as an important marine area due to its rich diversity in species and habitat. Shipping, boating and other anthropogenic activities such as the creation and widening of the Suez canal have instigated the introduction of non-native invasive species into the Mediterranean.



This mini guide illustrates an example of invasive alien species threatening biodiversity or human well-being in Gibraltar. If you see any of these species please report it to the Department of the Environment **now** by sending a photo, location and date to [marine.monitoring@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:marine.monitoring@gibraltar.gov.gi)

## Factfile

- Alien species are organisms introduced intentionally or accidentally by people into new regions outside their native range.
- Alien species can arrive in many different ways, through release or escape, as contaminants or stowaways, or along transport corridors.
- Not all alien species are problematic, but the ones that cause problems are termed 'invasive'. Invasive alien species are estimated to cost billions of Euros per year.
- Invasive alien species threaten biodiversity, economy and society, including human health and well-being.
- There are over 800 alien species documented in the Mediterranean Sea. Further work is required to find out how many are invasive.
- There are many simple biosecurity methods that everyone can follow to minimise the introduction or spread of invasive alien species and diseases – for example, see [www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise)



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