

# Pacific oyster

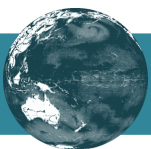
*Magallana gigas* (Thunberg, 1793)

REPUBLIC OF THE  
MARSHALL ISLANDS

## KEY FEATURES



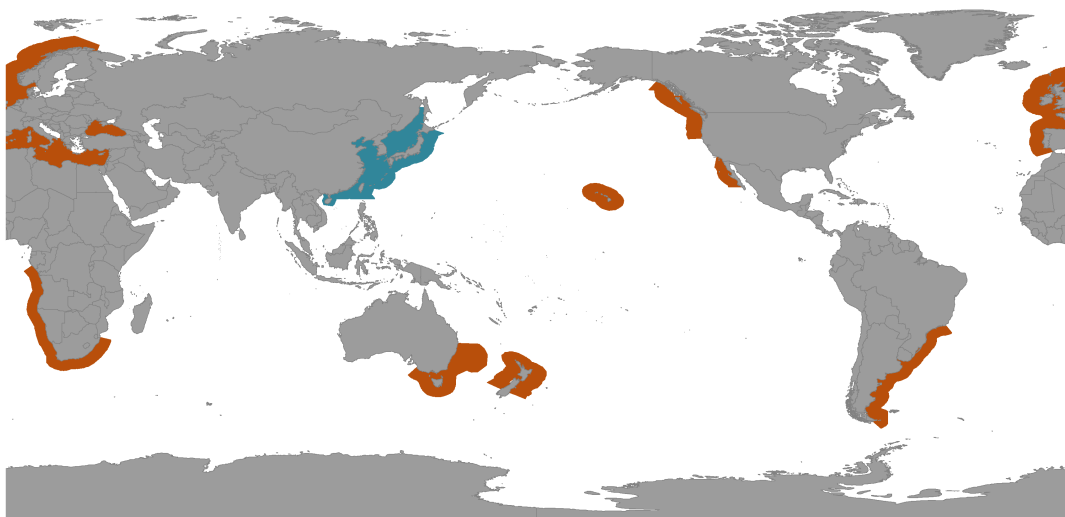
- Oyster with an elongated, rough shell that can reach 20–30 cm long
- Although highly variable, the two valves are solid but unequal in size and shape; one valve is usually cemented to a hard substrate
- Left valve is slightly convex, right valve is deep and cup-shaped
- Shells are sculpted with large, irregular, rounded radial folds; radial ribs are present on both shells
- Usually whitish with purple streaks and spots, inner side is white, adductor muscle scar is kidney-shaped
- Filter-feeder with a diet of organic and inorganic matter, has a wide tolerance of salinity and temperature



## PATHWAY

✓ ballast water    ✓ biofouling    ✓ aquaculture transfer

Native  
Cryptogenic  
Non-indigenous





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## IMPACTS



### Environmental impacts

Changes habitats and displaces native species by competing for food and space. Has been recorded to transfer parasites, diseases, and other pest species such as the macrophyte alga *Sargassum muticum* and shell borers such as *Polydora* spp. to the local fauna. Hybridisation with local species has also been recorded



### Human health impacts

Shellfish poisoning can occur when concentrations of metals or biotoxins are high enough



### Social & cultural impacts

Wild populations establish and become a source of income to locals but may displace native species, requiring consideration to be given to the conservation of protected habitats and the socioeconomics of fishing communities who make a living from this oyster



### Economic impacts

In many introduced locations, this species has a positive economic impact as it is part of a successful shellfish industry. In Australia, it has an adverse effect on the native Sydney rock oyster and has caused a collapse of that fishery

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- High reproductive output and changes sex during its life, usually spawning first as a male and subsequently as a female
- Larvae develop for 2–3 weeks prior to metamorphosis and settlement

## DISTRIBUTION

**Not present in the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**Native range** Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia

**Non-indigenous range** Australia, New Zealand, northeastern Pacific, UK, France, South Africa, and Argentina

## CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

### Images

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### References

[Nehring \(2011\)](#), [Miosesec et al. \(2009\)](#), [CIESM \(2000\)](#)