HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?



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CARPET SEA-SQUIRT, *Didemnum vexillum*, is an invasive non-native marine animal thought to be originally from Japan. It is now known to be in the UK. It can compete with native species for space and can smother shellfish and other immobile species. Fouling of man-made hard structures such as vessel hulls, aquaculture equipment, docks, moorings and support structures is common. It can prove costly to marine industries and users.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Carpet Sea Squirt can reproduce quickly and overwinter in a reduced form. It may look like some native species, but can be identified by the following features:

- It can grow as thin flexible sheets or hang down in long rope like growths
- It has a uniform pale orange, cream or off-white colour
- The surface is leathery (not slimy) and has a veined or marbled appearance
- Has numerous pores on the surface but these close up out of water to produce white spots

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND IT?

1. **Note the location** to the nearest 100m or provide GPS coordinates
2. **Take a photograph** or detailed description
3. **CALL** Scotland's Environmental and Rural Services (SEARS)

   Helpline on 0845 230 2050
4. **Assume that it is *D. vexillium*** and do not move any material, stock or boats from the site.

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