



## **Club Tunicate**

*Styela clava*

### **History**

- \* First observed in Long Island Sound in 1973; by 1988, its range expanded northward to Maine and southward to Connecticut

### **Characteristics**

- \* Yellowish-gray to reddish-brown
- \* Club-shaped with two siphons
- \* Tough, leathery, bumpy exterior; often covered with other organisms
- \* Up to 8 in (20 cm) tall with stalk approximately 1/3 of its total length
- \* Fast-growing, prolific breeder

### **Habitat**

- \* Grows on hard surfaces such as pilings
- \* Shallow water below low-tide line

### **Known Distribution**

- \* Prince Edward Island, and Maine to New Jersey
- \* Native to Sea of Okhotsk south to Shanghai

### **Impacts**

- \* Aggressive competitor for living space and food
- \* Can replace native species of invertebrates
- \* Occurs by the tens of thousands in areas previously occupied by the blue mussel, *Mytilus edulis*, in parts of southern New England

