Trumpet Tube-Worm

Ficopomatus enigmaticus

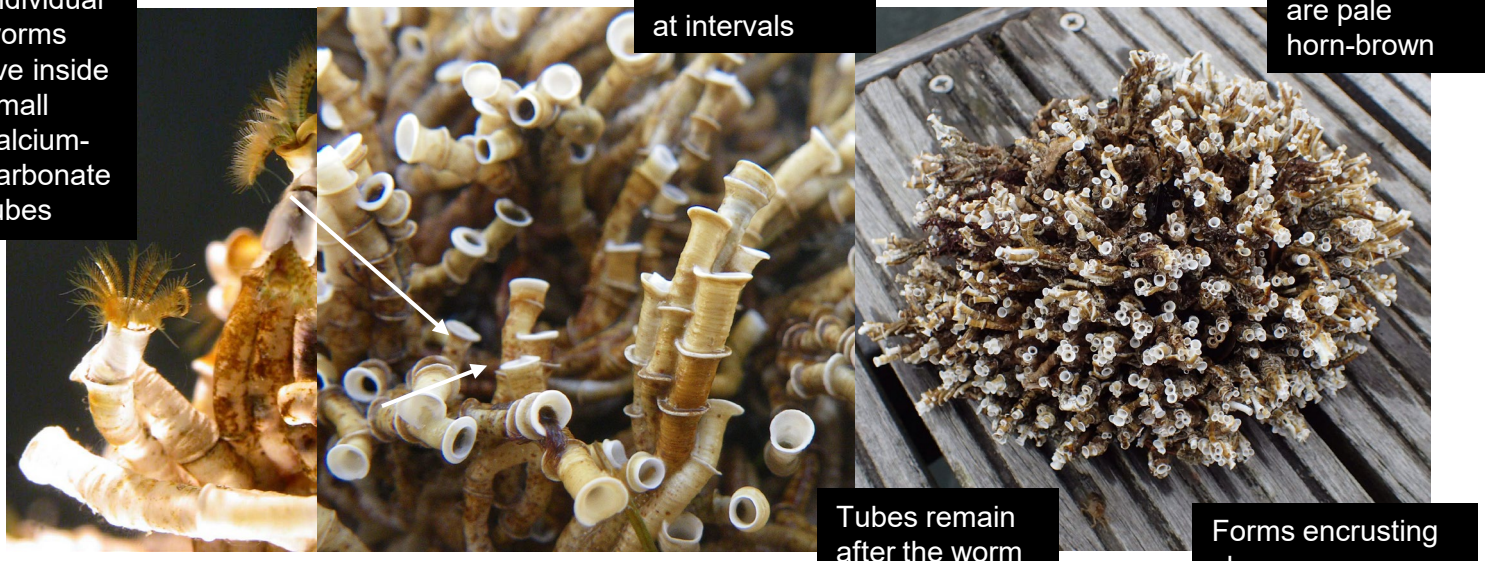
NNSS
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What is it?

The trumpet tube worm (*Ficopomatus enigmaticus*), also known as the Australian tube worm or coral worm, is an invasive marine non-native species in the UK that builds rigid, white chalky tubes with distinctive flared collars.

- It thrives in sheltered, shallow coastal and brackish waters with fluctuating salinities, such as estuaries, lagoons, ports, and lock-gated marinas.
- It may be found as a single tube or larger reef-like clumps or encrustations on hard surfaces.
- It grows quickly and can cover boat hulls, propellers and other structures within weeks

What does it look like?



Images: J Bishop © MBA

What can boaters do about it?

- **Avoid cleaning in the water**. Trumpet tube worms can regrow from small fragments, so cleaning can increase the risk of spreading them further.
- **Haul out promptly.** Use a wash-down bay with a drainage interceptor to keep runoff out of the water.
- **Remove all tubes and fragments.** Scrape off tubes, check hidden areas, then pressure wash. Ensure debris from cleaning is captured and disposed of in landfill.
- **Keep the hull, propeller and shaft clean and apply antifouling** to help prevent further spread of invasive non –native species.

Please help us track this species, report sightings with a photo: Online at: https://irecord.org.uk/enter-non-native-records

Scan QR code to report a sighting:

For more information on invasive non-native species visit: **nonnativespecies.org**