

Filming Ocean Invaders

By Will Pinfold

Background

New Zealand kelp forests support entire ocean food webs and provide valuable habitat for many coastal species.

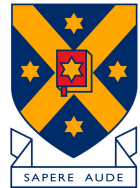
An invasive Japanese seaweed (*Undaria Pinnatifida*) is spreading in New Zealand waters!

What effect will *Undaria* have on our native seaweeds in Otago?



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Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo

NEW ZEALAND

Research

An underwater filming setup including: a camera, lighting and parallel lasers, will be used to document seaweed assemblages.

From the footage, biomass of both native and invasive seaweed as well as diversity will be calculated using the lasers as size references.

If this method proves effective it will allow us to better assess kelp forest health and monitor invasive species like *Undaria* as well as hopefully stop further invasion.

*Undaria
pinnatifida*