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# ECOSPHERE

AN ESA OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL



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## ECOSPHERE

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**COVER PHOTO:** Habitat-forming kelp species, such as *Laminaria hyperborea* (pictured here during spring low tide emersion in South Devon, UK), dominate shallow rocky reefs in many temperate and polar regions. They can form extensive forests, providing habitat for a wealth of associated organisms and contributing significantly to coastal primary production. Kelp forests are, however, impacted by a range of stressors, including ocean warming and the spread of invasive species. By conducting a long-term press removal experiment, Epstein et al. (*Ecosphere*, Volume 10, Issue 7, Article e02814; doi:10.1002/ecs2.2814) examined the impact of the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* ('Wakame') on native assemblages at a heavily invaded site in the UK. Although overall community impacts were inconsistent and of low magnitude, the manipulation showed that *Undaria* exerted subtle but significant negative effects, particularly on a native kelp species with a similar life history. Targeted long-term manipulative experiments can identify previously undetected impacts of invasive species in coastal ecosystems; subtle impacts should be considered before robust management prioritizations are made. Photo credit: K. Hiscock.

Content will be added here once the issue is complete.



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