

## **Message from the Recreational Boating Association of Washington:**

**Date: June 17, 2006**

**The Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) has asked RBAW to make its members aware of a new invasive species in Puget Sound. The Club Tunicate (*Styela clava*) has been identified by the PSAT as an invasive threat and PSAT has asked NW boaters to help to keep it from spreading.**

**Puget Sound has several native species of tunicates, but these new invasive species have no natural predators and thus threaten commercial and recreational shell fishing and aquaculture.**

**Club tunicates resemble a small wooden club. Boaters can see photos of Club Tunicates at: [Puget Sound Partnership](#). The Club Tunicate prefers shallow water in protected bays. They attach themselves to boat hulls and marina floats. They can grow to nearly 8" in length.**

**Once they attach to a surface they do not move, unless of course they attach to a boat, which does move. When attached to a boat, they can move to new areas, reproduce, and potentially establish themselves in a new location.**

**Boaters can help in several ways ways.**

- \* Keeping the bottom of your boat clean.**
- \* Applying antifouling paints to the boat bottom as directed by the manufacturer.**
- \* Learning to identify the Club Tunicate (see the web site) and report.**