NOTES

A Eurasian Alga in Alaska[1]

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SPECIMENS of the brown alga *Fucus inflatus* f. *latifrons* Foslie were collected in Izembek Lagoon (55°N, 163°W) on the Bering Sea coast of the Alaska Peninsula; these were preserved in the collections of the Department of Botany, University of Washington. Identification of the species was based on the description by Zinova (1953). This species has not previously been reported from the west coast of North America (Dawson, 1961:398). *Fucus inflatus* occurs in the lower intertidal of the arctic seas of Siberia and Greenland and to about 55°N in the North Sea (Zinova, 1953). On the Pacific coast of Asia, *F. inflatus* extends from the Arctic to about 45°N. The form *latifrons,* however, is known only from the White, Barents, and Norwegian seas; it has not been reported from the Pacific Ocean.

Scagel (1963) examined the distribution of benthic algae in the northeast Pacific Ocean in relation to oceanographic conditions, and found that several species could be used as oceanographic indicators. This record from Izembek Lagoon presents a discontinuous distribution that is not readily explained by the circulation of the surface waters of the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean (Zenkevitch, 1963:818–827).

The presence of a species requires its introduction as well as suitable conditions for growth. If the introduction of *F. inflatus* is a result of the circulation of surface waters, then, assuming favorable growth conditions, it should occur over a wide range of the Alaska coast. *F. inflatus* is a relatively conspicuous species. Since it has not been reported from other collections of Alaskan algae, it may not occur outside of a limited area of the Bering Sea coast.

Several mechanisms for the introduction of this algae into Izembek Lagoon can be conceived. The most interesting is the possible introduction by the several hundred thousand Stellar's Eiders (*Polysticta stellari*) that annually migrate between the arctic coast of Siberia and Izembek Lagoon (Jones, 1965). Future collections on both sides of the Alaska Peninsula should provide further evidence.

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