

IS YOUR BOAT SPREADING MARINE PESTS?

Exotic marine pests pose a major problem to New Zealand's coastal environment. They can take over our natural ecosystems and displace native species, cause changes to habitats, and reduce biodiversity. They can also affect recreational and commercial fishing, tourism and human health.

Marine pests are transported around the world with fishing or marine farming equipment, in aquarium material or by deliberate introduction. But most often they move around on vessels as fouling attached to hulls or in ballast water.



North Pacific seastar

photo: CRIMP

An example of a marine pest that was introduced to Australia is the Northern Pacific seastar. It is a voracious predator and a major pest for the shellfish farming industry in its native

range in Japan. In Tasmania, it has significantly affected native shellfish populations. This seastar could cause major problems if it becomes established in New Zealand.



Boats spreading marine pests

Your boat or yacht could be accidentally spreading harmful marine pests carried as bio-fouling growth on the hull and other external areas of your boat, or in seawater or marine sediments retained in your boat.

How you can help

We recommend you have your vessel slipped for cleaning and antifouling as soon as possible after you arrive in New Zealand. This may not be necessary if you had your yacht cleaned and anti-fouled shortly before departure from your last long stay. Use the anti-fouling paint recommended for your boat type and its particular use. Also when moving between regions or counties of New Zealand check your boat is free of bio-fouling growth such as algae, barnacles, mussels and oysters. Clean as necessary.

Clean areas that retain sea water and sediment. Flush these with fresh water.

When you are cleaning the boat:

- Make sure that all plant and animal life removed is collected and disposed of on land away from the coastal marine area.
- Preferably have your vessel cleaned in a facility, such as a haul-out facility where waste material is channeled to a collection sump and treated.
- Any sediment or silt removed could contain potential marine pests and should be disposed of with the same care as for bio-fouling.

Areas on your boat that harbour pests

Please pay special attention to the following areas:

- the hull, keels and stabilisers;
- intakes and outlets;
- propellers and shafts;
- bow thrusters;
- grates, rope guards;
- rudders, rudder shafts and casings, rudder recesses;
- anchors, anchor chains and anchor wells.



Fouling on the hull of a yacht.

photo: NIWA

THE THREAT



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For more information visit the Biosecurity New Zealand website www.biosecurity.govt.nz or call **0800 80 99 66**