

## Stop the spread of marine pests

New Zealand's marine life and coastal environment is under threat from introduced marine pests. Once introduced these pests spread quickly and are difficult and expensive to control. When they establish outside their native locations, some marine organisms can cause irreversible damage in their new environment. You can help protect New Zealand's waters from the impacts of marine pests.

## Marine pests can affect the things you value...

### Your Boat

- Marine pests can damage the paint and hull where they attach
- They can increase drag and therefore fuel costs
- They can clog water cooling inlets, motors, propellers, causing engine overheating

### Your Fishing

- Marine pests can put additional pressure on fish and shellfish populations by competing for food, preying on them and damaging habitats
- Pest outbreaks can result in movement controls or fishing/boating bans to stop the pest spreading further

### Your enjoyment of our coast

- Marine pests can damage our unique coastal environment, setting up unsightly populations in the areas you love.
- They can harm New Zealand's unique marine biodiversity.

### The New Zealand economy

- Impacting on marine farming and fishing



## It's easy to keep hitchhiking pests off your boat...

### Regularly clean your boat hull...

- Haul out and remove all large fouling matter by hand. Dispose of in a bin going to landfill. It's important this material does not get back into the sea where it could reproduce
- Hose and brush or waterblast to remove all fouling. Haul your boat out at a facility where the wash off is contained and treated before going back into the sea
- Pay special attention to what are known as "niche areas" – appendages that protrude or areas that retain water such as the keel, intakes and outlets, propellers and shafts, rudders and casings. These are prime locations for harbouring pests
- Do this at least annually, and anytime there is a build up of fouling. Never let fouling build up beyond a light slime layer

### Antifoul your hull...

- Renew at the interval recommended by the manufacturer or retailer, if the paint has been scraped or damaged, or if persistent fouling is occurring. Paints generally last between one and two years.
- Apply paint to a clean and dry hull, prime first if the hull surface is exposed.
- Apply a good coat and don't miss those niche areas.
- Antifouling works best with several coats applied.
- Allow each to dry between applications and allow final coat to cure for 24 hours before re-launching.

### Additional steps...

- Check your boat is clean before you move location. If not, clean it.
- Regularly treat internal seawater systems – flush with freshwater or an approved treatment.
- Dispose of sewage and bilge water at an approved pump out facility.
- For trailer boats, jetskis, canoes, dive gear and fishing gear – wash with freshwater after use and allow to thoroughly air dry before using in a new location. Remove any debris or by-catch material as you clean, rather than throwing over the side when you get to a new location.

### Everyone has a role to play, keep your bottom clean!

For more information, visit: [www.livingseas.co.nz](http://www.livingseas.co.nz)

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)

If you find a marine animal or plant that looks out of the ordinary to you, note its location, grab a sample if you can and call MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on its freephone: 0800 80 99 66

[www.cleanboating.org.nz](http://www.cleanboating.org.nz)