

Risk of non-indigenous species biofouling on recreational vessels in berths and on swing moorings in the Auckland region

Researcher

Introduction:

Hello, my name is Oriana Brine and my Masters thesis research is with the School of Marine Science at the University of Auckland. I will attempt to quantify and evaluate the amount of biofouling on recreational vessels in berths and on swing moorings in the Auckland region. This information, combined with the level of biofouling and the abundance of species present on the hulls, will determine the risk presented by recreational vessels on different mooring types. The results will inform MAFBNZ for prioritising management measures to prevent the spread of non-indigenous marine biofouling species in New Zealand.

Project description:

There are **two sections to this research**:

The first section will compare biofouling on recreational vessels in berths and on swing moorings in the Auckland region. Marine species attached to the recreational vessel hulls as biofouling will be identified (if fouling is present), and photos and videos will be taken of the boat hulls. Nothing will be touched or removed from the exterior of the boats.

The second section involves social surveys of boat owners that will attempt to address key gaps in knowledge regarding:

1. Vessel characteristics (length, outer hull material, and average speed in knots);
2. Voyage history (where it has gone since its last antifoul and clean, the last 5 ports of call, and if it has been moored in any other port for a long period of time);
3. Maintenance history (how often it is used, maintenance costs, and if there have been any inspections); and
4. Knowledge of marine biosecurity.

Both owners of boats in berths and on swing moorings will be identified for the social surveys. However, the survey work is dependent on the number of voluntary responses received, so every survey completed will be important.

If you are interested in taking part in my research, please type the link below into your internet browser and take part online. The survey is very easy to complete and only takes 5-10 minutes. I really appreciate any responses I receive. Thank you!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/biofoulsurvey>