

# **MARINE BIOSECURITY FACT SHEET**

## **Boats spreading marine pests**

Vessels arriving in New Zealand can accidentally introduce harmful marine organisms. These can be subsequently spread around New Zealand, from harbour to harbour and into other coastal areas including areas of high natural value and areas of commercial production such as marine farms.

By undertaking the following simple precautions you can reduce the chance of your vessel transferring marine pests into and around New Zealand.

### **Clean before departure from an overseas port**

Prior to entering New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the owner or operator of a vessel should ensure that the hull of the vessel is free from plant or animal growth. If it is not free of fouling growth, arrangements should be made to have the hull cleaned prior to departure for New Zealand.

### **Clean before leaving the 'home' harbour in New Zealand for travel within or outside NZ**

Again, the vessel should be cleaned before departure, particularly where the vessel owner or operator is aware of the presence of marine pest species in their home harbour or port.

### **Collect material and dispose to land**

In cleaning the vessel's hull and other areas that may harbour animal and plant life, care should be taken to ensure that all possible removed plant and animal life is collected and disposed of away from the coastal marine area. Areas on a vessel that may harbour plant or animal life include:

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

Any sediment or silt removed from the vessel could contain life and should be disposed of with the same care as for fouling growth.

Where a vessel is to be lifted out of the water to be cleaned this should be carried out where possible in a facility where washings from the cleaning operation are captured and not discharged directly back into the sea.

### **Westpark Marina has a haulout facility and systems for removing and treating fouling material**

**Annual slipping for inspection and application of antifouling of the hull should be accompanied by regular cleaning of slime from the hull so that fouling growth does not establish.**

Your assistance in taking steps to avoid transferring harmful marine organisms both internationally and within New Zealand is appreciated.

### **Contact details**

For further information on this fact sheet plan or any marine biosecurity issue please contact:

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