



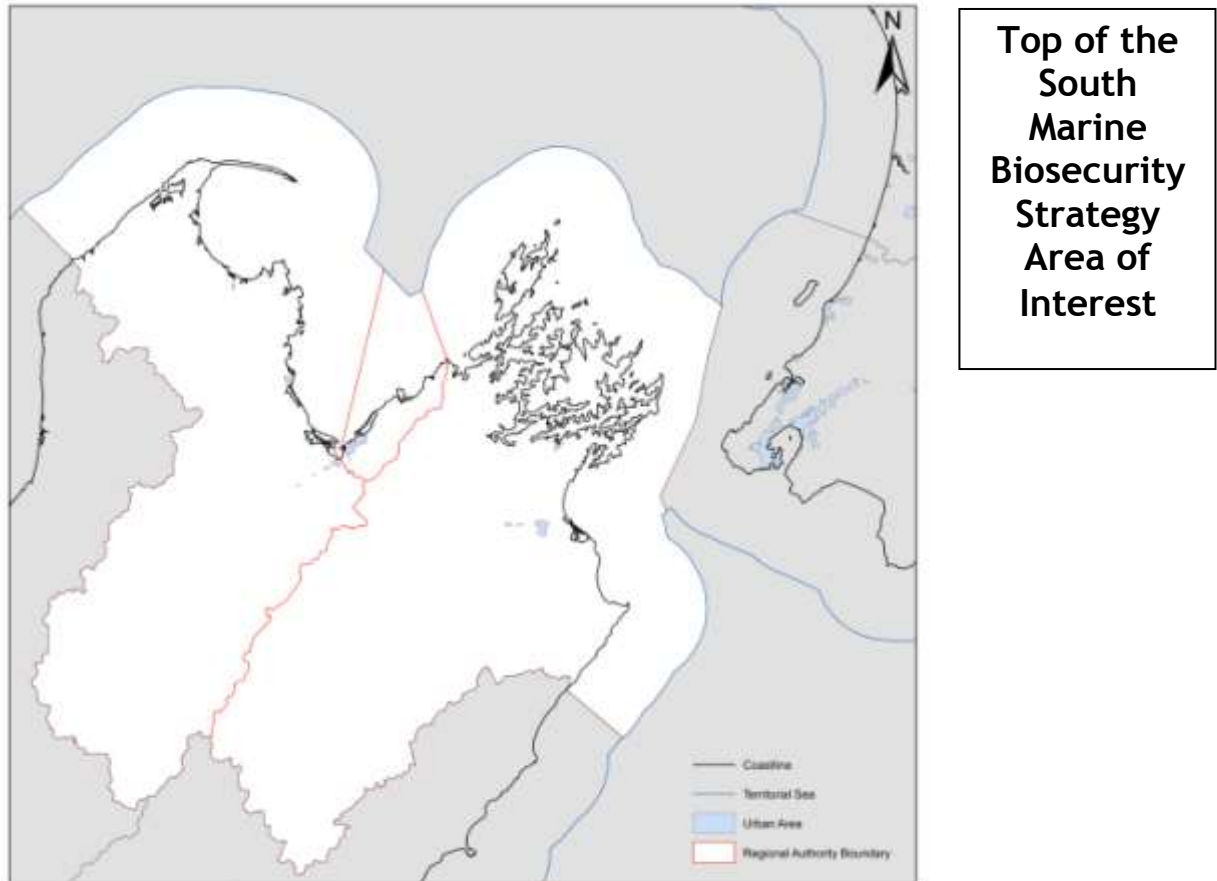
# Top of the South Island Marine Biosecurity Strategic Plan

## Summary 2013

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of the strategic plan is to prevent the introduction, and minimise the spread, of damaging marine species throughout the Top of the South region by coordinating the action of all partners committed to its implementation.



**Figure 1**

The strategic plan deals with management of all damaging marine organisms from viruses to plants and animals. The strategic plan takes into account management at and beyond the New Zealand national border but provides only for coordinated action within the Top of the South Island region.

A review of technical information on marine biosecurity issues in the Top of the South region can be found in the NIWA report (Morrisey and Miller, 2008) commissioned as a stand-alone document for this project.

## **2. Vision for 2020**

*A marine environment where the Top of the South Island is protected from damaging marine pests and diseases. The mauri of our marine environment has been sustained and enhanced. We have rich, healthy ecosystems where opportunities abound to sustain the needs of present and future generations. The whole community is cooperating to minimise new introductions and control the spread of damaging marine organisms. All parties have confidence in the marine biosecurity system in the Top of the South Island. Partnerships between agencies, industry and other stakeholders are effective in dealing with the issues. Demonstrated successes of the marine biosecurity system are celebrated by an informed community and the reputation of the Top of the South for a clean and protected marine environment has been enhanced. Over-regulation has been avoided, while agencies have acted effectively and efficiently to preserve all valued social, cultural, economic and natural aspects of the marine environment.*

## **3. How this strategic plan works**

The strategic plan works by recording the commitment of responsible organisations to agreed operating principles and aligned action to improve marine biosecurity in the top of the South Island. In signing up to the strategic plan organisations agree to participate in preparing detailed plans and undertaking actions to implement the vision of this strategic plan.

## **4. Principles**

The seven principles for action by the parties to the strategic plan are:

1. Acting constructively and promptly in the face of uncertainty.
2. Taking a cautionary approach in making decisions to allow for the limits to our understanding of environmental complexity.
3. Taking action by those best placed to act with the resources that are available.
4. Acknowledging the kaitiakitanga of tangata whenua iwi and Crown commitments under the Treaty of Waitangi relevant to this strategic plan in so far as these commitments are consistent with partner's obligations under their relevant legislation.
5. Rigorously assessing costs, benefits and risks, including social, economic, cultural and environmental effects to enable best use of limited resources.
6. Apportioning costs equitably taking into consideration legal obligations, roles and responsibilities, contribution to risk, and benefit received.
7. Encouraging community involvement, individual responsibility and full participation.

## ***5. The Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership***

The goals of the Partnership are to enable the integrated management of marine biosecurity through:

1. Clear leadership and role clarity.
2. Consistent and coordinated operations.
3. Efficient, effective and sustained action.
4. Wide public support and community engagement.

The Partnership relies on, but is not part of, the national border control regime.

The brief of the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership is to:

- Undertake coordinated marine biosecurity education and advocacy activities.
- Provide integration of regional with national marine biosecurity systems.
- Provide partners with access to regional intelligence, resources and organisational structures.
- Provide operational resources for nationally-led activities (e.g. personnel and boats).
- Coordinate local surveillance programmes including stakeholder involvement.

The relevant regional partners:

- Use regional powers of regulation under the Resource Management Act, Biosecurity Act and Local Government Act to support regional marine biosecurity.
- Use role of partners as owners and managers of local ports, marinas and other areas of intense marine activity to enhance marine biosecurity.
- Provide funding according to legal responsibility, capacity to pay and agreed priorities.
- Use such other powers and resources (e.g. harbourmaster roles) as appropriate to support regional marine biosecurity.