

# Partnership Meeting, Friday 27 May 2016

## Incident Simulation Exercise

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Exercise was focussed around Version 3.0 of Incident Response Manual. The objective was to identify changes needed to procedures and to the Manual



Two scenarios were used

- a high risk vessel, and
- a high risk organism.

**How ready we are in the Top of the South, to deal with a marine biosecurity threat?**

Participants were asked to stand on continuum line:

- At top of line - 100% ready to deal with marine biosecurity threat.
- At other end - not at all ready

Participants were asked 'why did you choose to stand here?'

Top of line:

- *'If someone walked through the door right now I know with confidence we could walk out the door and get into it. We know what to do and how to do it.'*

Middle of the line:

- *'If it's a vessel you have capability, if you found something on substrate I think it's a whole new ball game and nobody in NZ could say they're 100% ready.'*
- *'Bottom line - there's nothing in my budget.'* (TDC)
- *'We're ready to pull boats out but who's writing the cheque?'*

Other end of line:

- *'I don't think we're capable of motivating local bodies.'*
- *'I'm not familiar with TOS so don't know what you're ready for.'*

MPI - has been working on a lot of joint responses and the ability to collaborate here is awesome.

Money is a big issue.

## Exercise 1 - High Risk Vessel:

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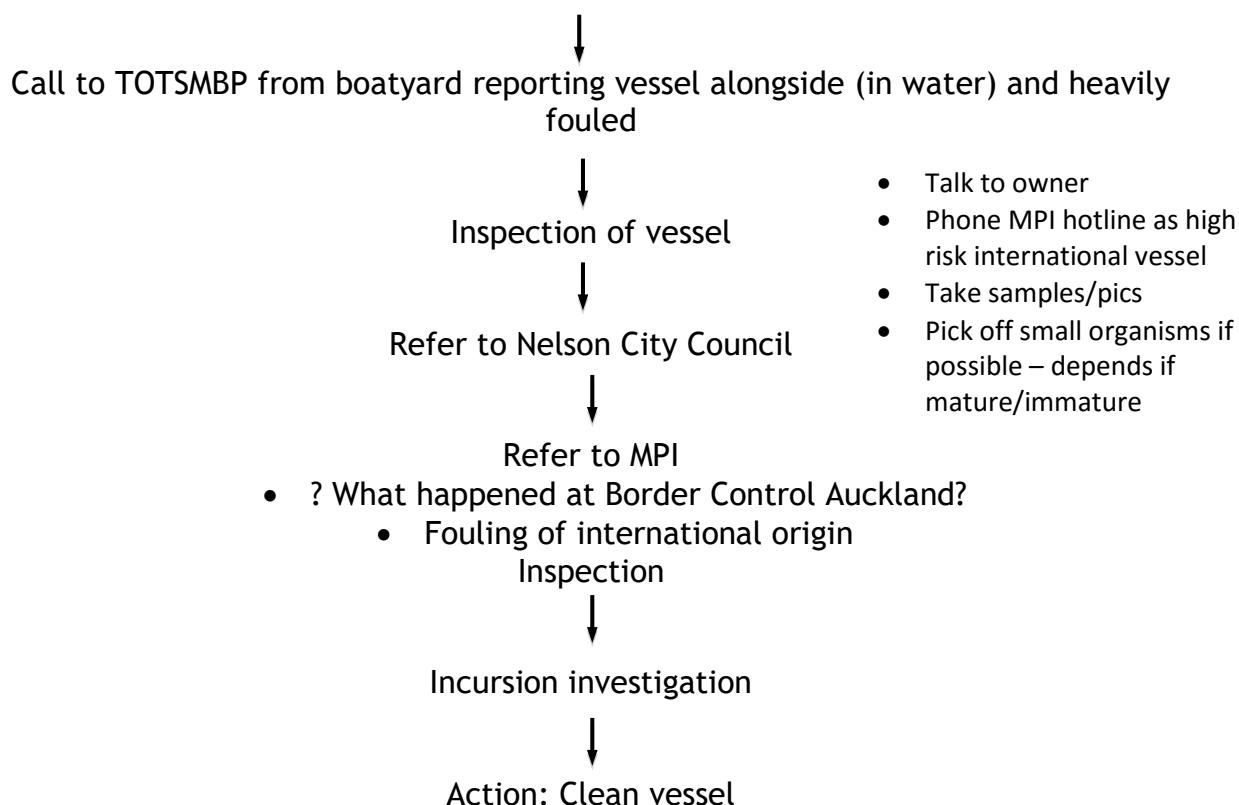
TOSMBP have \$5K to start (per incursion).

MPI Biosecurity Officers described their role with vessels coming from overseas: *Any vessel has to give advanced notice of arrival, they give us paperwork including details of their last two year's travel, ballast water, what their intentions are, people on board, a whole raft of questions. Documents are analysed and then we respond back to vessel. Then depending on what category they're in, they are handled in different ways. E.g. commercial can be handled one way, under quarantine control until they leave NZ. Vessels have to meet certain guidelines or enforcement action will be taken. Some vessels are met and inspected at sea. Private yachts and some fishing boats are met on arrival and the whole vessel inspected.*

MPI have legal powers to act if a harmful organism is found on the hull, but local Councils haven't put it into their Regional Pest Strategies so don't have any powers.

### From whiteboard:

MV Incursion - a vessel coming into Nelson from Tasmania via Auckland



### Discussion points

If vessel is not from overseas: A quick response at a local level, involving MPI locally.

If the boat has been in the Top of the South for a long time and is heavily fouled, what risks and procedures are there in regards to moving the vessel?

❖ Add box on flow chart for 4.0a - TOTSMBP follow up - what happened?

Intra regional conversations. Only Councils currently with powers are Northland and Southland. Otherwise only through MPI.

The legal powers that exist for domestic vessels are enforcement to slip. MPI can do this through a Notice of Direction. TOTSMBP has no such powers at present.

Should there be a TOTSMBP Response Team?

Who pays for the identification of suspect organisms?

- If TOTSMBP sends a sample to MITS - TOTMBP pays
- If TOTSMBP sends a sample to MITS with MPI approval or MPI collects a sample and then sends it to MITS, MPI pays.

What if a recreational vessel is heavily fouled?

What is the risk?

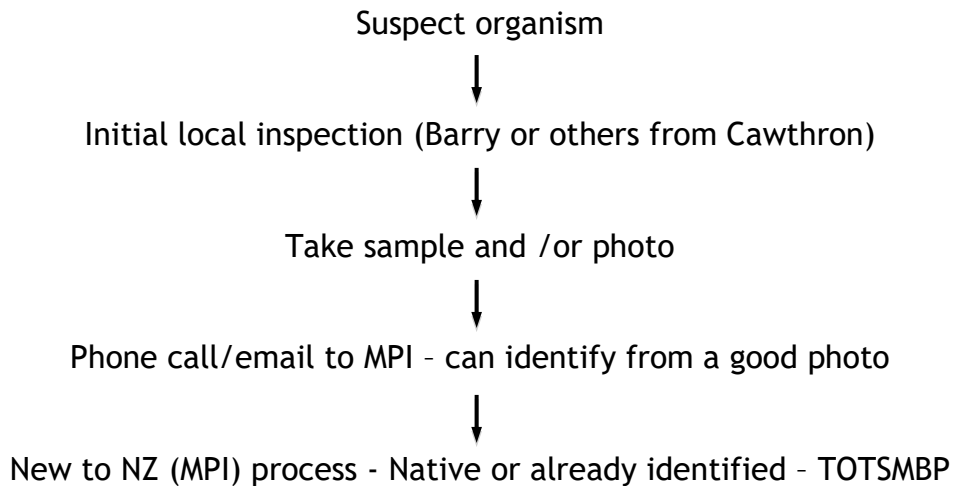
How does MPI want to receive this information?

A yacht in NZ for 6 months but come from overseas and not cleaned is still a risk.

## Exercise 2 - High Risk Organism:

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From whiteboard:

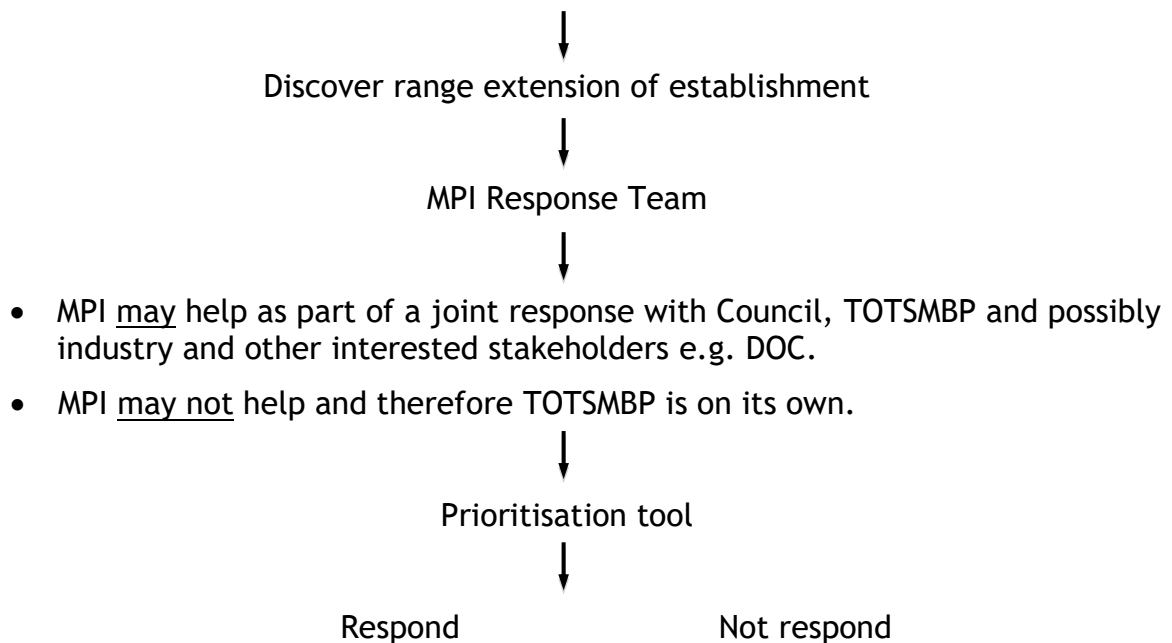


What about endemic diseases. Is the process still the same?

Should there be a pathways plan?

Scenario example:

Suspect organism identified as *Pyura doppelgangera* (introduced to NZ from Australia. Not seen before in TOTS)



What can we do?

❖ Use template (?) to show on-going plans and costs.

Where does the funding come from? None of the three TOTS Councils have designated funds, but could reallocate funds.



Urgent measures  
With or without MPI



Delimitation exercise  
Survey plan and identification of risks and effects  
A staged approach with trigger points

### Discussion Points:

Could there be a delegated authority and a process to access this within each Council for \$20 000? Need to have a streamlined process to cut down on delays. This varies by Council and it is difficult to put this type of response budget into plans due to the Long Term and Annual Planning processes.

If you're responding to something new, you need to think of urgent measures and is there a budget set aside for doing something quickly while you determine what to do next?

Still seems to be a lot of paperwork and justification to get work underway. You don't want to lose the opportunity to work quickly.

- ❖ Include more 'no' points in flow charts, where there are options to close off.
- ❖ Transition to long-term management response - not closed off - (end box on flow chart)
- ❖ 1.3 - Harmful organism needs to be changed to potential harmful organism. Or suspicious organism. MPI uses 'suspect organism'

If it is a significant range extension MPI may invite a joint response.

After you get identification confirmation, for MDC the first thing is to pull together all interested parties and stakeholders.

Question: What native species would you take action on?

Answer: There's species that are not present in each region but are native to NZ. Could be of concern to marine farmers because if something is native it doesn't mean it's not a problem for different sectors of the community.

NIWA has done modelling work on potential effects of *Styela* on mussel industry in Marlborough Sounds.

Fanworm is a filter feeder and grows in between mussels and can filter out a large volume of water and is actively competing for food.

**Overall conclusion on Manual:** The updated Incident Response Manual was generally fit for purpose, a few minor changes and additions will be made following feedback from the exercise. Final manual to go to Management Committee for sign-off in June 2016.

**How ready we are in the Top of the South, to deal with a marine biosecurity threat?**

Participants invited to stand on continuum line again:

Why did you move?

Moved to top:

- *'Just talking about it has made me more confident'.*
- Bruce Polkinghorne - *'I thought the presentation was great and I now have a pretty clear idea of what happens. I would like someone from TOTSMBP to come to a berthholder meeting to give an outline of what you're trying to achieve. There would be about 200 people present'.*

Was in middle, but moved up - *'you presented how well you worked together'.*

Comment: *'I missed first one, but from my perspective is the fact you're all here, you have good relationships and connections. A process is a process, but the relationships are what will get you to the end of it and I think you'll be able to deal with anything.'*

Participants were thanked for their attendance and contribution and were reminded that any comments on the manual can be sent through to [tosmarinebio@gmail.com](mailto:tosmarinebio@gmail.com)

**Final Note:**

Many of the issues identified in the 2013 incursion exercise have been dealt with in the updated manual and also learnt from the last three years experience. The two significant issues that were raised in 2013 and again were discussed in 2016 were the lack of Council powers to act and the pre-approval of funding. While much work has been put into pathway plan investigation, berth agreements and initial \$5000 incursion funding being available, these two areas remain critical to the success in responding to an incursion.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm