

TOS MARINE BIOSECURITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

Purpose

This report sets out work completed by The Lawless Edge Ltd for the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership for 1 July 2016 to 8 May 2017. This is an interim report, with the final to be completed after 30 June 2017.

1. Project management and Partnership support

Provided for:

- 1 Partnership Forum
- 4 Management Committee meetings
- All project management and reporting
- Attending events elsewhere in NZ
- Providing input into national developments
- Sustaining networks with other regions

This item included: all servicing of the Partnership and its management committee including agendas, minutes and preparation of papers, meetings with the Te Tau Ihu Customary Fisheries Forum to support them as kaitiaki representatives for tangata whenua, management of the coordination team, project and financial management and record keeping and reporting to the contract manager and management committee. All planned activities were completed and reports provided as agreed. All key documents were archived in the internet cloud to ensure longevity and manage risks of data loss.

The team was involved in local, regional and national workshops as invited and sustained active connections with both MPI and councils in other regions. The Partnership was represented on the 4-year research project funded by MBIE- "*What's at stake? Understanding the impacts of non-native species in NZ's changing ocean*". The aim of the project is to improve our knowledge about the impacts that non-native species have in our marine environments and of societal responses to them. The TOS was represented by your Coordinator on the project advisory group.

The Coordinator's report on overseas visits on his Winston Churchill Fellowship was completed and accepted by the Winston Churchill Trust and delivered to the Minister for Primary Industries.

The Biosecurity 2025 document was analysed, a submission made and TOS was represented in national workshops which saw substantial improvements in the document.

2. Media, public awareness and networking

Provided for:

- Website maintenance
- Newsletters
- 2 Customary Fisheries Forum meetings
- Media management
- Network formation and maintenance with industry and other stakeholders.

The Team kept building networks within industry and this resulted in far more early information on risk events to prevent incursions. Public awareness was provided for with media releases, and through maintenance of the website which was updated at least monthly. Four newsletters were produced for stakeholder and the wider public consumption. We staffed a stall at the Port Marlborough open day in Picton and spoke with some hundreds of people. Coordination staff visited slipways and marinas in Wellington, Nelson, Motueka and Picton. This allowed identification of new sources of intelligence and opportunities to gather data on commercial vessels. One case of fanworm was reported in Picton, but a dive inspection found it to be another worm. Articles were provided for yacht club and marina newsletters. New biosecurity signs were installed at slipways and marinas throughout the region.

Coordination staff trained marine farm transport operators in pest identification, and this resulted in new infestations of *Styela* being identified in Admiralty Bay.

Coordination staff met with Hawkes Bay Regional Council biosecurity staff in Napier. The region has one commercial port and marina and no pest surveillance has been carried out for many years. HBRC were interested in the ToS activities including the response plan and incursion register, copies of both were sent. These contacts are a very useful addition to the network.

3. Pathways Management

Advice was provided to the Partners on development of Regional Pest Management Plans, Pathway Plans, and small scale management programmes.

4. Science support and technical solutions

Provided for:

- Science advice for all aspects of the programme
- Investigation of technical solutions
- Development of external research funding bids.

This included technical advice on a wide range of risks, treatments, and policy development. A benefit cost model for marine pathways was further developed in association with the Northland regional council. Envirolink proposals were developed and supported.

5. Summer Survey

Additional funding was provided by the Partnership to support a survey of recreational vessel hull fouling. On-water surveys were conducted from Abel Tasman in Golden Bay to Waikawa Bay in Queen Charlotte Sound and focused on vessels that were actively cruising. In all 187 vessels were surveyed. The only “harmful” organism found was *Styela clava*, and these were all on the Abel Tasman coast. The 2015/2016 Summer Survey report was completed and lodged with the National Library ready to be posted on the website. The 2016/2017 was completed and given to the Management Committee for review.

An ongoing study conducted with support from Nelson and Waikawa travel-lift operators will help to build a large data set from which questionnaire responses can be correlated with observed hull fouling. This project is nearing completion.

6. Incident readiness and response including updates to the manual

Provided for:

- Updating the Manual as we learn from experience and the environment changes
- One initial incident response by the coordination team.

The Incident Response Manual was revised and completed as per decisions at the Management Committee. It is now operational and posted on the website.

Seven incidents involving risks or incursions were recorded in the year to date. These included:

1. *Styela clava* reported on mussel lines at Collingwood. Sanford's mussel lines removed and dumped. Subsequent survey of Tarakohe Harbour involved removal of 437 *Styela clava* specimens, ranging from 15mm to 170mm.
2. Just over a dozen *Sabella spallanzanii* were found in Tarakohe Harbour in the course of the *Styela* survey above. As a result of this incursion, the three TOS Councils are each considering a Small Scale Management Programme for *Sabella*.
3. *Styela clava* was found on mussel lines at Admiralty Bay, Marlborough Sounds.
4. Tory Channel Contractors reported that they had seen fanworm on a vessel's trim tabs in Picton, but dive survey showed this to be another worm.
5. During a survey of 187 boats in the top of the south the TOS Marine Biosecurity team found six vessels on the Abel Tasman coast that were fouled with *Styela clava*. In all cases the boats were from Nelson, and *Styela* was on the bottom of the keel.
6. The vessel MY Vibrant Curiosity in Nelson prior to travelling into the Fiordland area was found to have small isolated populations of *Sabella spallanzanii* which were removed by divers.
7. Port Nelson, reported a vessel arriving in Nelson from Whangarei. It had been parked up in Whangarei, which is a risk location. Dive inspection found one small *Sabella* which was removed.

A meeting was convened on the *Styela clava* found on marine farms in Golden Bay and we provided advice to support the incident response and next steps identified for the parties.

Financial summary

		Budget	Year to date
1	Project management and Partnership support	\$27,070	\$19,655
2	Media, public awareness and networking	\$18,785	\$11,175
3	Regional pathways management	\$2,320	\$2,827
4	Science support and technical solutions	\$15,000	\$6,900
5	Survey and monitoring	\$39,740	\$21,487
6	Incident readiness and response	\$4,505	\$5,220
7	Total	<u>\$109,740</u>	<u>\$67,265</u>



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