Guide to in-water cleaning of vessel hulls in the top of the South Island

SOFT CLOTHS ONLY

NO SCRAPING

NO BROOMING

DON'T DISCHARGE CONTAMINANTS OR MARINE PESTS INTO YOUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

From a biosecurity perspective, removal of hull fouling from vessels is desirable in reducing the risk of spread of harmful organisms in the marine environment.

However, where this is done outside approved facilities, there is risk of release of toxin contaminants (biocides) and of harmful organisms into the marine environment.

People who undertake such work in an irresponsible way risk breaking the law and can face big penalties.

These guidelines describe minimal impact practices for non-commercial in-water hull cleaning in Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough. They do not constitute legal guidance and could not be used as a defence against offences under the Resource Management Act or Biosecurity Act.

Discharge of contaminants into the marine environment is not permitted in Marlborough, Nelson or Tasman without a resource consent. Discharge of contaminants is covered by the Resource Management Plan of each council and by relevant Acts of Parliament. The Council staff can advise on particular requirements in their area.

Your Council strongly encourages you to use shore-based facilities for anti-fouling coating maintenance whenever possible.

Note that the foreshore and seabed may be managed by port companies or may have a private owner. These may have their own rules. For example, in-water cleaning is not permitted in facilities owned and operated by the Marlborough Port Company.

Principles for good practice

The following principles summarise guidelines issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries for all of New Zealand:

1. We need to stop marine pests hitchhiking but not pollute the sea in the process.
2. Managing fouling on vessels and movable structures helps operators as well as the environment.
3. It is preferable to stop fouling getting onto vessels and movable structures than to be constantly cleaning them.
4. Avoid release of toxic chemicals and invasive aquatic species into the environment.
5. The removal of vessels and movable structures from the water for cleaning and maintenance should, where practicable, be used in preference to in-water operations.[1]

[1] Anti-fouling and In-water Cleaning Guidelines These guidelines are intended to replace the ANZECC Code of Practice for Anti-fouling and In-Water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance, 1997 (the ANZECC Code of Practice). current 14 October 2011 ISBN Online: 978-0-478-38744-5 ISSN Online: 2230-2816

In-water cleaning

No vessel that has been outside the Top of the South since its last antifouling treatment should be cleaned in-water.

In-water cleaning can only be done so long as no contaminants[2] are released into the environment.

This means that in-water cleaning should only be done to wipe a slime layer from a vessel where the antifouling is sound and less than a year old for antifouling that contains biocides, and less than two years old for biocide-free antifouling.

Slime removal should only be done with a soft cloth.

When information and/or documentation required for making decisions on in-water cleaning is not available, the Ministry for Primary Industries suggests the following:

1. If the type of a coating (e.g. biocidal; biocide-free) cannot be reliably determined, then it should be assumed that the coating contains biocides and that pests may be present in the fouling.
2. If the age of a coating cannot be reliably determined, then it should be assumed that the coating has reached the end of its service life and it's time to haul out and renew your antifouling.
3. If the origin of the biofouling on a vessel is unknown, then it should be assumed that it is of international origin and therefore may have new to New Zealand pests that should not be released into our waters.
4. If the biofouling is likely to be from more than one origin category (e.g. regional and international) then decisions on in-water cleaning should be based on the furthest likely origin (i.e. international) which means full containment and treatment of any discharge.

For further information contact your local Council:

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Phone: 03 543 8432

Nelson City Council

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Marlborough District Council

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Blenheim 7240
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CLEAN BELOW? GOOD TO GO

[2] ***Contaminant*** includes any substance (including gases, odorous compounds, liquids, solids, and micro-organisms) or energy (excluding noise) or heat, that either by itself or in combination with the same, similar, or other substances, energy, or heat—(a) when discharged into water, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of water; or(b) when discharged onto or into land or into air, changes or is likely to change the physical, chemical, or biological condition of the land or air onto or into which it is discharged