

# Marlborough Regional Pest Management Plan

## Summary of marine rules for Marlborough

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Pest invaders threaten the Marlborough Sounds' coastal environment and our aquaculture industry. To stop any further spread, make sure your boat hull is clean before travelling to other parts of the Marlborough Sounds and antifoul your hull once a year.

The main way pests are spread is as hitchhikers on boats. Fouling species are carried on your hull. Exotic diseases that infect fish and shellfish can be carried in the hull fouling or in your bilge water or gear. The Marlborough Region has programmes to reduce risk and combat the main threats. Legal rules under the Biosecurity Act mean that vessels must be free of hull fouling that might carry marine pests.

The key threat comes from fouling organisms such as the sea squirt (*Styela clava*) and Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*). These are established elsewhere in New Zealand and are rapidly finding their way to the sounds by hitchhiking on the bottom of boats. Legal rules have been made to stop the spread of *Sabella spallanzanii*. This means there should be no more than a light slime layer at any time your vessel is in the Marlborough region. The rules say that the owner or person in charge of a craft entering Marlborough must ensure that the fouling on the hull and niche areas of the craft does not exceed 'light fouling' unless:

- i) The craft is entering Marlborough for the purpose of a haul out. The haul out must be undertaken within 24 hours of arriving. Proof via receipt from a haul out facility must be provided upon request of an Authorised person, or
- ii) The craft is required to enter Marlborough in an emergency relating to the safety of the craft and/or the health and safety of any person on the craft, or
- iii) The craft is required to enter Marlborough in response to a declaration of a state of emergency acknowledged by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management.

The Marlborough District Council is using divers to remove *Sabella* from the Picton port and marina where there have been ongoing outbreaks.

Unfortunately, *Styela clava* is now well-established in Picton and Waikawa, but council and other agencies are working together to keep the spread under control and detect any new arrivals. Information on current known *Sabella* presence is noted on the map information for each bay.

More information can be found at [www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz](http://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz).

If you think you have found a marine pest call the MPI Hotline: 0800 809 966.