

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership

Operational Plan 2024 - 2026

17 September 2024



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Cover photograph: Mediterranean fanworm found in Waikawa Marina, March 2024 © Marlborough District Council

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1.0 Purpose of this Operational Plan

This Operational Plan details the collective operational and behaviour change activities being undertaken by Nelson City Council (NCC), Tasman District Council (TDC), Marlborough District Council (MDC), Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), and Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) a business unit of the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Partnership Coordination Team (Boffa Miskell Ltd) under contract to the Partnership for the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership (the Partnership) for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.

2.0 Background

Since 2008, the TDC, MCD, NCC have collaborated with BNZ under the Partnership in response to managing marine biosecurity in the top of the South Island. The Partnership is aimed at preventing new marine pests from being introduced or establishing in the Top of the South marine environment, managing established pests, and responding effectively to new incursions. The Partnership has now grown to include Greater Wellington Regional Council, and is currently coordinated under contract to the TOSMBP by Boffa Miskell Ltd.

3.0 Strategic Framework

The Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy was reviewed in May 2024 to help guide collective action and behaviour change through the development of this operational plan which includes communication and engagement planning. The Strategy (Figure 1) outlines the purpose, aims, opportunities and challenges of the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership, guided by a 10-year vision statement:

The Top of the South's marine ecological function is maintained and continues to be a rich and healthy ecosystem that sustains the needs of present and future generations

TOP OF THE SOUTH MARINE BIOSECURITY STRATEGY 2024

REGIONAL MARINE BIOSECURITY IN THE TOP OF THE SOUTH: FROM TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA, ACROSS RAUKAWA MOANA TO TE WAIPOUNAMU

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

CURRENT OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

- **Partnership:** We are a successful partnership, leading the way in marine biosecurity in Aotearoa since 2010. Three councils founded the partnership with Biosecurity New Zealand and allies, to explore how to control, manage and prevent the spread of marine pests within our region. We are now four councils with Biosecurity New Zealand, as we have been joined by GWRC.
- **Capability:** We are continually learning and innovating together by drawing on both practical experience and evolving scientific understanding. GWRC are joining to consider their future approach.
- **Capacity:** We are continually growing our capacity to respond in our region and have a track record of exploring innovative approaches. We do not yet have consistent infrastructure, facilities, and capability in our rohe. GWRC are building their capacity and resources.
- **Alliances:** We have relationships with other regional and national initiatives. We will continue our work with iwi to develop regional partnerships to understand how we support their efforts around marine restoration. The entire marine environment throughout Aotearoa faces similar challenges, and each region's success impacts others.
- **Behaviour change:** Marine pests are not understood by the public as well as terrestrial pests. This impacts the pace and ease of behaviour change.
- **Scope:** Our focus is on preventing the establishment of marine pests and managing new incursions.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- We see an opportunity for a consistent approach to marine biosecurity across Aotearoa NZ relating to surveillance, guidance and application of legislation, and behaviour change. So, we can **use our experience to provide practical advice and thought leadership** to the key agencies responsible for that.
- **Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has joined the partnership** and is developing its marine biosecurity capability. We are exploring if and how we can grow our regional partnership with other regions.
- We are working on how to build sustainable partnerships with iwi that support them in their aim to restore marine environments, including **taking better account of mātauranga Māori**.
- We want to better **capture the imagination of marine users** with stories that help them contribute to protecting the marine environment.

TO GET THERE, WE WILL WORK AT...

STRATEGIES

1. Maintaining and innovating how we do surveillance and respond to incursions.
2. GWRC learning from experiences of the Partnership and tailoring an approach to their context.
3. Contributing to the case for both technological and physical infrastructure development.
4. Encouraging and informing a consistent national approach— through communication campaigns, behaviour change, guidance, policy and legislation.
5. Maintaining programme sustainability through an equitable division of support, effort, and resources, maintaining a clear collective focus on our strategic outcomes.

HOW WILL WE MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

WORKSTREAMS

1. **Hold regular internal strategic conversations** that ensure effective delivery of our programmes, including fair cost and resource allocation and future programme sustainability.
2. **Efficiently survey and respond to incursions** of marine pests throughout the year. This includes communicating behaviour change to marine users.
3. **Develop and deliver a plan** for how we build and maintain our capability and capacity across our region to surveil, respond and communicate.
4. **GWRC will scope out the inclusion of marine pests in the RPMP** by 2025, leading to a response plan in place by 2026.
5. **Support our partners to build iwi relationships** that enable us to support tāngata whenua in their marine restoration efforts.
6. **Contribute to local, regional and national marine biosecurity initiatives**, e.g., consistent national guidance, policy and legislation and behaviour change campaigns.
7. **Build relationships with other regional alliances and maintain existing relationships with allies** within our region that enable us to influence marine users' behaviour.
8. **Continue to identify gaps in our infrastructure**, technology and capability across our regions and support partners to develop an approach.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

OUR PURPOSE

Prevent marine pests from being introduced or established in our marine environment, manage established pests, and respond efficiently to new incursions when they are detected

OUR 10-YEAR VISION

The Top of the South's marine ecological function is maintained and continues to be a rich and healthy marine ecosystem that sustains the needs of present and future generations

OUR 3-YEAR OBJECTIVES

1. Most **marine users clearly understand good practice** as it relates to their use of the marine environment and are increasingly motivated to prevent the spread of marine pests in our region.
2. We have **sufficient resources and capability** to provide or support a rapid response to new pest incursions, and to support our long-term pest management objectives.
3. We have **maintained and enhanced our operational delivery and behaviour change programmes**.
4. We have **identified critical infrastructure priorities** and are working to gain support from key agencies.
5. We have **established relationships with other alliances** around the motu, and we share good practices and advocate together at a national level.
6. We **regularly connect with tāngata whenua**, who have set principles for marine restoration, and we work together to ensure they are well supported to deliver their biosecurity aims.

Figure 1 The Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy Review 2024.

3.1 Partnership Roles and Responsibilities

3.1.1 Councils

Councils play a critical role in managing marine biosecurity within their respective council jurisdictions and boundaries. Councils are responsible for implementing and enforcing regional rules and regulations through regional pest management plans under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The primary objective of these rules is aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of marine pests into and within their regions.

The MDC Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) provides the framework to manage specific organisms within the Marlborough region, including Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*). *Sabella* is classified as an exclusion pest in the MDC plan, which aims to prevent the establishment of *Sabella* in the Marlborough region.

NCC and TDC have a combined RPMP, which provides the framework for efficient and effective management or eradication of specified organisms in their regions, including marine pests. *Sabella* is classified as an Eradication Species in the NCC/TDC Plan; the aim is to reduce the infestation density of the species to zero levels in the short to medium term and to eradicate the pest from an area in the intermediate term. NCC and TDC recently amended their RPMP to better align with the MDC RPMP and provide consistency across the Top of the South councils' coastal marine areas. Under the new rules, the level of biofouling on the hull and niche areas of all marine craft entering the Tasman-Nelson region cannot exceed Level 2 on the [Cawthron Level of Fouling \(LoF\) scale](#). Level 2 macrofouling is defined by as: *macrofouling is present in small patches, or a few isolated individuals or small colonies, and covers between 1 - 5% of the visible surface*. Vessels exceeding the fouling limit must be hauled out within 24 hours of arrival. Boat owners may be required to provide proof of haul-out to authorised personnel. Specific exemptions may apply, such as those complying with the Craft Risk Management Standard – Vessels (CRMS) for biofouling or those making short trips.

The GWRC RPMP plan does not currently include marine pest species or rules relating to marine biosecurity; however, they have committed to joining the TOSMBP as a first step towards understanding how they can do more to protect their region and others against marine pests.

3.1.2 Ministry for Primary Industries / Biosecurity New Zealand

BNZ is responsible for overseeing the Biosecurity Act and the development of national policies and regulations. They are responsible for border controls and inspections of international vessels. BNZ is currently developing a national behaviour change initiative and developing consistent national approaches to managing marine biosecurity risk. BNZ funds and manages the Marine High Risk Site Surveillance (MHRSS) programme, which is carried out every six months at 12 high-risk international shipping ports and marinas throughout New Zealand.

BNZ plays an important support role in the Partnership, including providing funding towards the coordination of the Partnership and providing regular updates and information on MPI led initiatives.

3.1.3 Marine Industry Stakeholders

Marine industry stakeholders such as the marine aquaculture industry, marina managers, port operators, shipping companies, and the fishing industry are crucial to marine biosecurity. Their operational activities are key pathways for the introduction and spread of marine pests, making their role in early detection and prevention vital. By encouraging and adhering to good marine biosecurity practices, these stakeholders can help minimise biosecurity risks.

The Partnership will continue to support and work alongside marine industry stakeholders to help with education and advocacy within their marine communities, ensuring broader awareness and compliance with biosecurity measures. Their ongoing participation in the Partnership protects both the marine environment and the economic interests of their industries.

3.1.4 Top of the South Partnership Coordination Team

The Partnership coordination team oversee and support the coordination of councils, BNZ, stakeholders and iwi. The coordination team plays a key role in enabling the partners to share information and raising awareness of marine biosecurity. This is done through regular meetings, workshops, presentations, and engagement activities, including managing the Partnership's website, newsletters, and stakeholder connections.

Additionally, the coordination team provide science advice, oversees regional surveillance work, and analyses data to inform the Partnership's strategic efforts in marine biosecurity and provide support when responding to biosecurity incidents as needed.

This comprehensive approach aims to enhance public understanding, engagement, and regional surveillance, supporting the successful implementation of marine biosecurity activities and fostering a productive partnership.

3.2 Marine Biosecurity Resourcing

Table 1 outlines the funding and resources for marine biosecurity activities in the Top of the South region. There are activities funded under the Partnership (e.g. the Partnership coordination team activities, summer hull surveillance) and separate council-lead activities (regional surveillance, incident response) that are funded under OPEX funding.

Table 1 Resourcing for marine biosecurity activities.

Partner	Partnership	OPEX	FTEs	Other Resources
MDC	\$42,624	\$135,000 BNZ contribution for <i>Sabella</i> TBA)	0.2spread between 2 people consisting of Biosecurity Officer and Biosecurity Manager	
TDC	\$42,624	\$40,000 BNZ contribution for <i>Sabella</i> TBA)	No dedicated marine biosecurity FTEs Marine biosecurity is in the job descriptions for the Team Leader Biosecurity	Harbourmaster staff time and boat Biosecurity staff time

			and Biodiversity, and for 4 Biosecurity Officers Marine Biosecurity is also part of the role for the 2 x Harbourmasters	\$15k contingency budget for incursion responses
NCC	\$45,274	\$61,435 BNZ contribution for <i>Sabella</i> TBA)	0.2 FTE coordinating the Council's marine biosecurity programme, including chairing the TOSMBP Management Committee; managing TOSMBP coordination contract and dive survey contracts, managing responses when required; reporting to Council	Harbourmaster, Nelson marina manager – time to assist with information and response
GWRC	\$40,000	\$100,000* (from 2025/26)	1.0 FTE from 2025/26*	
BNZ	\$25,000	>\$2,000,000 Marine High Risk Site Surveillance programme	0.1 BNZ coordinator for the Partnership 0.1 BNZ national <i>Sabella</i> Programme lead	
Total	\$195,522	\$356,435*		

*GWCR LTP funding to be confirmed

**BNZ funding to be confirmed

4.0 Work Streams and Objectives

The Partnership aims to prevent marine pests from being introduced or establishing in the Top of the South marine environment, manage established pests and respond efficiently to new incursions when they are detected.

This requires all partners to work together and collectively contribute to the programme and undertake a range of activities to achieve the Strategy objectives, as well as to support each other and stakeholders in achieving their objectives. Each workstream identified in the Strategy guides the activities of the Partnership.

4.1.1 Workstreams

1. **Partnership Coordination:** Hold regular internal strategic conversations that ensure effective delivery of our programmes, including fair cost and resource allocation and future programme sustainability.

2. **Surveillance and Response:** Efficiently survey and respond to incursions of marine pests throughout the year.
3. **Planning, Communications and Engagement:** Develop and deliver a plan for how we build and maintain our capability and capacity across our region.
4. **Greater Wellington Support:** GWRC will scope out the inclusion of marine pests in the RPMP by 2025, leading to a response plan in place by 2026.
5. **Stakeholder and Alliances:** Build relationships with other regional alliances and maintain existing relationships with allies within our region that enable us to influence marine users' behaviour.
6. **Working With Tāngata Whenua:** Support our partners to build relationships that enable us to support tāngata whenua in their marine restoration efforts.
7. **Wider Initiatives:** Contribute to local, regional and national marine biosecurity initiatives, e.g., consistent national guidance, policy and legislation and behaviour change campaigns.
8. **Infrastructure and Technology Improvements:** Continue to identify gaps in our infrastructure, technology and capability across our regions and support partners to develop an approach to make improvements.

4.1.2 Objectives (3 Year)

1. Most **marine users clearly understand good practice** as it relates to their use of the marine environment and are increasingly motivated to prevent the spread of marine pests in our region.
2. We have **sufficient resources and capability** to provide or support a rapid response to new pest incursions, and to support our long-term pest management objectives.
3. We have **maintained and enhanced our operational delivery and behaviour change programmes**.
4. We have **identified critical infrastructure priorities** and are working to gain support from key agencies.
5. We have **established relationships with other alliances** around the motu, and we share good practice and advocate together at a national level.
6. We **regularly connect with mana whenua**, who have set principles for marine restoration, and we work together to ensure they are well supported to deliver their biosecurity aims.

4.2 Workstream 1: TOS Partnership Coordination

Hold regular internal strategic conversations that ensure effective delivery of our programmes, including fair cost and resource allocation and future programme sustainability.

The Partnership is coordinated by a team from Boffa Miskell Ltd. This coordination team has developed this operational plan and will deliver key components of the plan. The coordination team will also support the TOS partners to deliver their activities under this plan.

This operational plan has been developed to support overall Partnership coordination and to ensure all activities can be linked back to the Strategy.

Activities

1.1 Monthly Partnership Meetings

Partnership meetings are held online monthly and chaired by the contract managing council (NCC for 2023 – 2026).

1.2 Coordination of marine biosecurity activities

Partners will provide regular updates on marine biosecurity activities that have been undertaken and ensure coordination of future activities to maximise value and improve efficiency.

1.3 Annual Reporting

An annual report will be provided to the partners at the end of each financial year. This report will be used to measure progress towards the Strategy objectives. The report can be used by the Partners to meet council reporting obligations, including reporting on the council's biosecurity operational plans.

4.3 Workstream 2: Surveillance and Response

Efficiently survey and respond to incursions of marine pests throughout the year. This includes communicating behaviour change to marine users.

Marine biosecurity surveillance and response activities are generally undertaken by all project partners (GWRC aiming to begin in 2024) and collectively through the regional hull surveillance programme coordinated by Boffa Miskell on behalf of the TOSMBP.

Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) has been the focus of a significant amount of surveillance work over the past 10 years, with project partners working to detect, control and eradicate small populations of *Sabella* when they have been discovered on boat hulls or marine structures and the seabed.

Activities

2.1 Marlborough District Council – council-led surveillance

MDC undertakes surveillance activities using divers in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina, Queen Charlotte Sound, Havelock Marinas, Port Underwood, and the outer sounds. This surveillance consists of vessel checks, moorings, and structures, as well as some transect lines in high-risk areas.

Currently, Mediterranean fanworm is not established (no evidence of a self-sustaining populations) in Marlborough. It has been detected in Picton Marina, Waikawa Bay Marina, Grove Arm and Port Underwood (East Arm); however, there is no evidence of establishment after response actions. It has also been detected on vessels that have arrived from out of the region, but there is no evidence of establishment after response actions. The MDC Biosecurity Operational Plan sets out targets relating to *Sabella* (Figure 2).

- Target 18.1** Each year, a minimum of two dive surveillance and removal operations are undertaken in Picton Marina, Waikawa Marina.
- Target 18.2** Each year, one dive surveillance operation is undertaken in Waikawa Bay, Picton Port, Shakespeare Bay, Grove arm, Port Underwood and Havelock Marina.
- Target 18.3** Each year, any situation that comes to Council's attention with regard to suspected Mediterranean fanworm or a fouled vessel recently arrived into Marlborough, has an investigation started within 24 hours.

Figure 2 MDC targets relating to *Sabella*, Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Operational Plan 2018 - 2028

The proposed programme of work for Mediterranean Fanworm for the 2024/25 financial year in Marlborough is as follows:

Surveillance works to be undertaken by TC Environmental

- Oyster Bay and East Arm Port Underwood – September/October
- Shakespeare Bay – September/October
- Queen Charlotte high-risk vessels – September/October
- Waikawa marina – March – June
- Picton marina – March - June

Surveillance works to be undertaken by Diving Services NZ Limited

- Picton Port areas, Waikawa marina, Grove arm (once a year in autumn)
- Picton marina - September/November
- Waikawa marina - September/November
- Grove arm - November/December
- Havelock marina - November/December
- Picton swing moorings and moored vessels September/November

2.2 Tasman District Council – council-led surveillance

TDC undertakes annual dive surveillance in Port Tarohe, and hull surveys on moored vessels throughout the year.

- TDC works with NCC, MDC and BNZ under the TOSMBP to destroy any *Sabella* infestations as and when they are identified.
- All known infestations of *Sabella* are treated by July 2024.

Figure 3 Delivery targets for TDC in the Tasman Nelson RPMP Operational Plan 2023-24.

The current proposed programme of work for Mediterranean Fanworm for the 2024/25 financial year in Tasman is as follows:

Surveillance works to be undertaken by Diving Services NZ Limited

- Port Tarohe - October 2024 and May 2025

Surveillance works to be undertaken by TDC biosecurity staff, NCC marina staff, Diving Services NZ

- Incursion responses to *Sabella* either through summer dive survey or other detection (harbourmaster, DOC, biosecurity officer surveillance) – all year but focussed on summer

5.2.3 Nelson City Council – council-led surveillance

<p>Performance Measure</p> <p>Compliance with the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan reporting requirements (e.g. annual reporting on yearly operational targets and progress towards 10 year Plan objectives).</p> <p>Targets Year 1 - 10</p> <p>100% delivery of operational plans and operational plan reviews reported to Council each year.</p>

Figure 4 Relevant KPI in the NCC Long Term Plan for biosecurity (including marine biosecurity).

Nelson City Council undertakes dive surveillance twice annually in Nelson Haven. The proposed programme of work for the 2024/25 season is as follows:

Surveillance works to be undertaken by Diving Services NZ Ltd

- Nelson Haven – two surveys in October/November, April/May

2.4 Greater Wellington Regional Council – council-led surveillance

GWRC has only recently joined the TOSMBP with an aim to increase the council's marine biosecurity capability and hasn't undertaken any targeted surveillance recently. With support from the Partnership, GWRC will develop a surveillance plan that will aim to survey vessels prior to the busy summer season and ensure vessels travelling from the Wellington region are not spreading marine pests to other harbours or regions (including the Top of the South region). Potential survey sites include:

- Evans Bay Marina
- Evans Bay Moorings
- Clyde Quay - Wellington Marina
- Clyde Quay - Moorings
- Port Wellington
- Seaview Marina
- Mana Marina

Other activities will include marina manager interviews and scoping for updates to RPMP.

2.5 TOSMBP Annual Summer Hull Surveillance Programme

Each year, the Partnership carries out a summer hull surveillance programme, which involves surveying active vessels across the Top of the South regions and inspecting vessels for marine pests. The summer hull surveillance programme aims to reduce the risk of new incursions into the region by actively surveying recreational vessel hulls, educating vessel owners on biosecurity risks, and collecting data to help inform management decisions.

A summer hull surveillance plan is prepared and approved annually by the Partnership, ready for implementation over the summer months. The proposed programme for the 2024/25 financial year is:

Boffa Miskell Ltd / Wai Dive Services

- Summer surveys in Marlborough, Nelson, Picton and Wellington during Dec – Jan 2025

2.6 National Marine High Risk Site Surveillance (MPI/BNZ):

The national MHRSS is conducted biannually in summer and winter by NIWA (under contract to BNZ) at 12 of New Zealand's busiest international shipping ports and marinas, which include Wellington, Picton and Nelson harbours (Figure 5).

Its primary objectives are to detect incursions of high-risk non-native organisms or Unwanted Organisms, identify previously unrecorded non-native or cryptogenic organisms, and monitor range extensions of established non-native or cryptogenic organisms exhibiting pest characteristics.

This surveillance focuses on high-risk sites where international vessels first enter, targeting habitats most likely to harbour these species. The current proposed programme for the 2024/25 financial year is:

NIWA dive specialists

- Picton harbour winter survey – 8 – 12 July 2024
- Wellington harbour winter survey – 29 July – 2 August 2024
- Nelson harbour winter survey – 16 – 20 September 2024
- Picton, Wellington and Nelson summer surveys – November 2024 – March 2025 (dates confirmed in October).

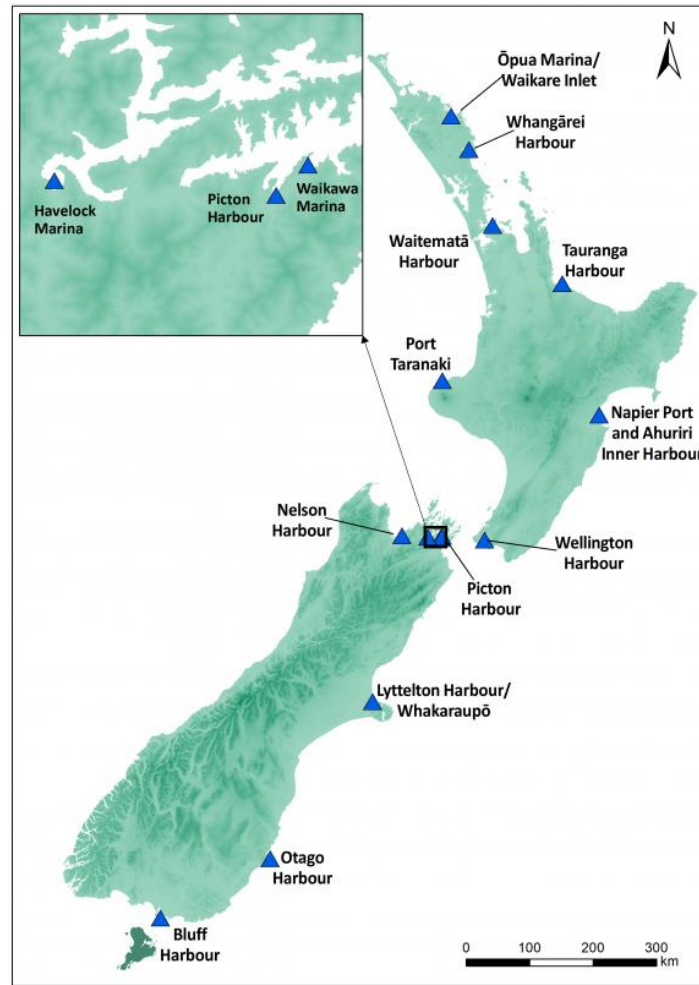


Figure 5 The 12 locations surveyed by the National Marine High Risk Site Surveillance (NMHRSS) every six months. Picton, Havelock and Waikawa are surveyed as a single location.

2.7 National Marine High-Risk Site Surveillance (MPI/BNZ):

A summary of the planned surveillance activities is provided in Table 2. A map of the proposed survey locations is provided in Figure 6.

2.8 DOC Motueka Marine Reserves Monitoring and Maintenance

Nationally, DOC partners with BNZ and mana whenua to help monitor and control the spread of invasive marine species. DOC Motueka undertakes a robust marine reserve monitoring and maintenance programme in the Top of the South region. The programme includes monitoring species and habitats, six monthly buoy cleaning, and restoration. DOC Motueka has an active dive team that has been briefed on how to identify and monitor invasive species. This team is also available for incursion response as per the TOS response manual and can conduct extra surveillance if it is considered a priority by DOC.

Table 2 Programme of surveillance activities for the 2024/25 financial year.

2024/25	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MDC			Oyster Bay Port Underwood East Arm Shakespeare Bay Queen Charlotte high-risk vessels Picton marina Waikawa marina	Oyster Bay Port Underwood East Arm Shakespeare Bay Queen Charlotte high-risk vessels	Queen Charlotte high-risk vessels Picton marina Waikawa marina Grove arm Havelock marina	Grove arm Havelock marina		Waikawa marina Picton marina Grove arm (old known area)	Picton Port areas Waikawa marina Grove arm			
TDC*				Port Tarohe							Port Tarohe	
NCC				Nelson Haven	Nelson Haven							
GW						TBC	TBC					
BNZ	Picton harbour Wellington harbour	Wellington harbour	Nelson harbour		Picton, Wellington and Nelson summer surveys – date TBC	Picton, Wellington and Nelson summer surveys – date TBC	Picton, Wellington and Nelson summer surveys – date TBC	Picton, Wellington and Nelson summer surveys – date TBC	Picton, Wellington and Nelson summer surveys – date TBC			
DOC Motueka Marine Reserves	<i>Wakapuaka Taia pure - intermittent</i>				Tonga and Horoirangi Marine Reserves (and controls)	Tonga (6 sites) and Horoirangi (5 sites) Marine Reserves	Tonga Island MR and controls from Mad Mile to Separation Point Horoirangi MR and Controls from The Glen to Hori Bay	Long Island MR and controls – Arapawa Island, Moturoa Tonga and Horoirangi Marine Reserves	<i>TBC - Tonga and Horoirangi Marine Reserves (and controls)</i>			Tonga (6 sites) and Horoirangi (5 sites) Marine Reserves

									(and controls)			
TOS summer hull surveys						Abel Tasman National Park	Abel Tasman National Park					
						Queen Charlotte Sound	Queen Charlotte Sound					
						Nelson	Nelson					

**TDC to include surveillance in Bark Bay due to recent discoveries of Sabella on vessels during 2023/24 summer hull surveillance*

Marine Biosecurity Surveillance Areas

Site type:

- Port
- Marina
- Moorings areas

Tasman

- ① Port Taranaki
- ② Port Motueka

Nelson

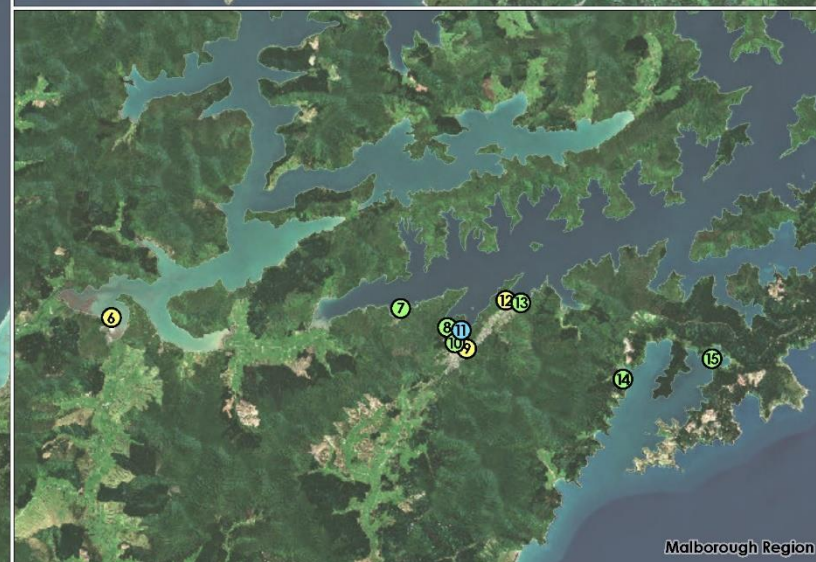
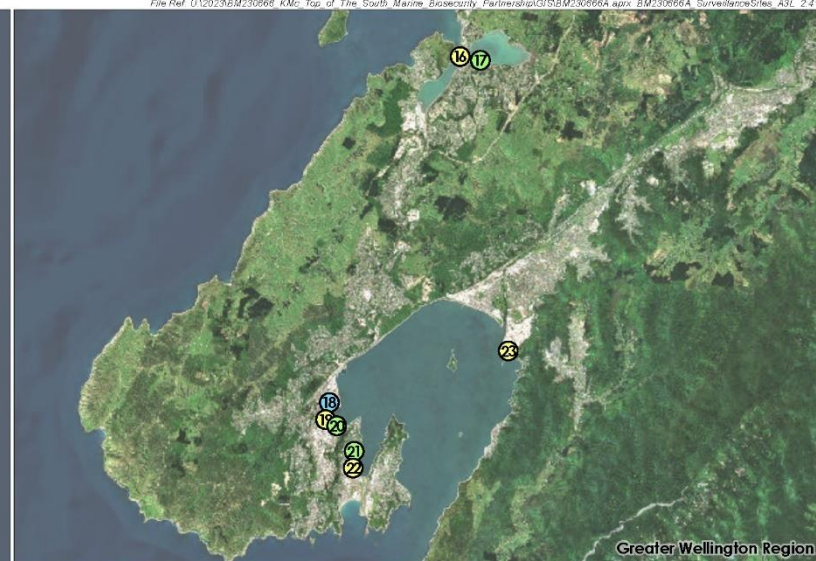
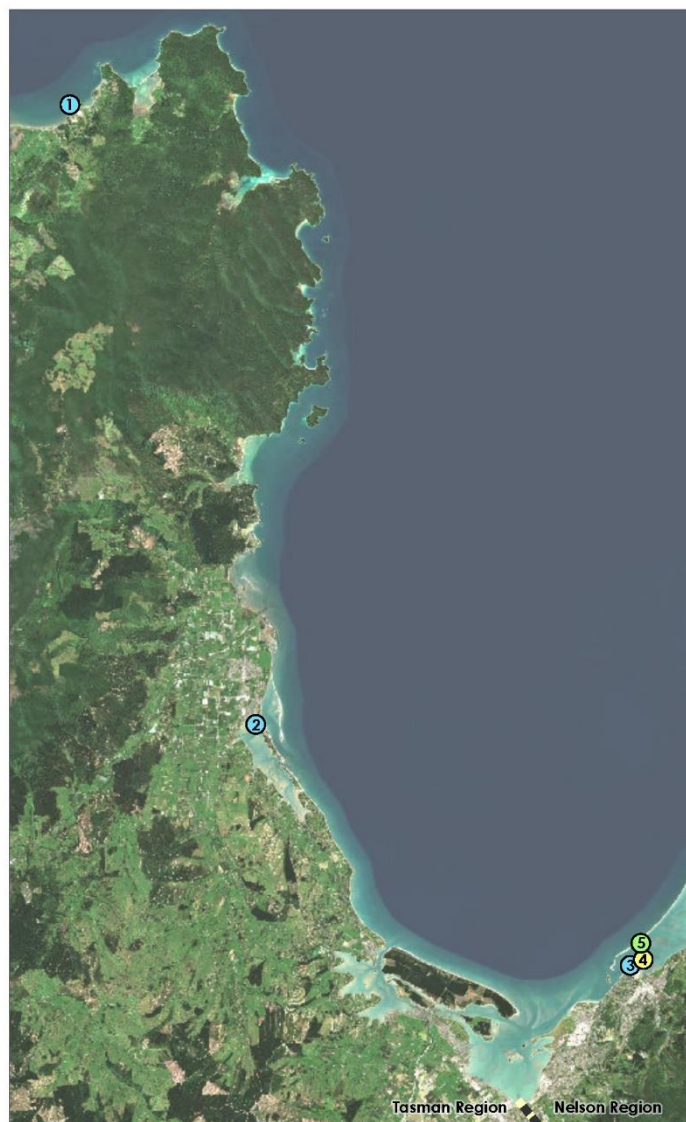
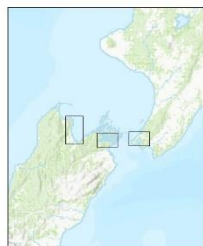
- ③ Port Nelson
- ④ Nelson Marina
- ⑤ Nelson Swing Moorings

Marlborough

- ⑥ Havelock Marina
- ⑦ Grove Arm Moorings
- ⑧ Shakespeare Bay Moorings
- ⑨ Picton Marina
- ⑩ Picton Moorings
- ⑪ Picton Port
- ⑫ Waikawa Marina
- ⑬ Waikawa Moorings
- ⑭ Oyster Bay Moorings
- ⑮ Port Underwood (East)

Greater Wellington

- ⑯ Mana Marina
- ⑰ Porirua Harbour Moorings
- ⑱ CentrePort Wellington
- ⑲ Clyde Quay Marina
- ⑳ Clyde Quay Moorings
- ㉑ Evans Bay Moorings
- ㉒ Evans Bay Marina
- ㉓ Seaview Marina



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Data Sources: Eagle Technology, LINZ, StatsNZ, NIMA, Natural Earth, ID OpenStreetMap contributors, Dispersed Basemap - Eagle Technology, Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology, Land Information New Zealand, GEBCO, Community maps contributors
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TOP OF THE SOUTH MARINE BIOSECURITY PARTNERSHIP **Top of the South Marine Biosecurity – Surveillance Areas**

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Figure 6 Map of surveillance locations across the Top of the South region.

2.8 Incident response

If marine pests are detected during surveillance activities, the partnership has developed an incident response manual that sets out guidance so that decisions and processes are approached in a consistent and agreed manner by all Councils and stakeholders with regional responsibilities under the Partnership.

The incident response manual can be found [here](#).

2.9 Incident response reporting

Partners will provide updates / reports on incidents to the wider Partnership group to share critical information and lessons learned. Incidents are also recorded in the [Incident Register](#).

4.4 Workstream 3: Planning, Communications and Engagement

Develop and deliver a plan for how we build and maintain our capability and capacity across our region to undertake surveillance, respond and communicate.

This workstream involves developing a plan to build and maintain the necessary resources and skills to effectively manage marine biosecurity risks in the Top of the South. This will require an assessment of current capabilities, identifying strengths and gaps in biosecurity systems and responses.

To address these gaps, training programmes can be developed for different partners, stakeholders, and organisations. This may include marine biosecurity training and workshops, to enhance surveillance, identification, and response skills.

Activities

3.1 Develop and finalise operational plan and review annually

This operational plan has been developed by the coordination team and will be reviewed and endorsed by the Partnership. It will be maintained as a 'living' document and will be regularly updated throughout the year. Ahead of the 2025/26 financial year, this plan will be reviewed and updated with the activities planned for 2025/26.

3.2 Communication and Engagement activities are integrated into the Operational Plan

The coordination team will develop a programme of activities that builds on good practice from previous programme activities and aligns with the MPI national behaviour change programme. The activities will be agreed with the Partnership.

- Develop programme of activities
- Identify stakeholders / audiences
- Communications and Engagement actions developed and agreed
- Implement activities

3.3 Develop / organise workshops, training programmes or events

The coordination team is responsible for delivering workshops, training programmes or events to develop marine biosecurity capability amongst partners and stakeholders.

Proposed workshops for the 2024/25 financial year:

- NIWA / BNZ marine pest ID workshop – Picton, October 2024
- Other workshops to be confirmed

3.4 TOS Marine Biosecurity Newsletter review

The coordination team will undertake a review of the current newsletter, including:

- A review of the newsletter (impact, reach, design)
- Cleaning up the mailing list
- Checking if the database is held with consideration for privacy and security

3.5 TOS Marine Biosecurity Newsletter

The coordination team will coordinate a quarterly newsletter, including:

- Call for content – from the Partners (who may identify other stakeholders to approach)
- Content to be discussed at the Partnership meeting two months prior to the newsletter being circulated
- Draft content, based on submissions from others.
- Design and prepare newsletter, using a template
- Manage mailing list
- Arrange circulation
- Report on newsletter statistics at the Partnership Meeting and agree on any development actions

3.6 Top of South website review

The coordination team will review the current website (what and why it is being used), to ensure it is relevant and is up to date. The work will include:

- Identify and keep in mind the target audience the website is focused on
- Search Engine Optimisation: ensuring the appropriate use of relevant key words
- Find out how the site ranks for google searches
- Check content is relevant and up to date, and all links are working. This includes aligning content and updating links so work with other campaigns e.g., MPI campaign, TON (and takes account of what we know about behaviour change from the research that MPI did).
- Work out what can be archived and where
- Check associated social media accounts, and that buttons are prominent on the website
- Check website is optimised for mobile
- Undertake small scale user testing – check web design is appropriate and user friendly
- Check hosting and security.
- Write up plan for further review and content updating.
- Deliver plan over course of the 2024/25 financial year.

3.7 Maintaining Top of the South website

The coordination team will maintain the Top of the South website throughout the year to ensure that content is relevant and up to date.

4.5 Workstream 4: Greater Wellington Support

GWRC will scope out the inclusion of marine pests in the RPMP by 2025, leading to a response plan in place by 2026.

GWRC has recently joined the TOSMBP as a first step to doing more to protect their region and the top of the south regions against marine pests. The GWRC RPMP does not currently include marine pest species or rules relating to marine biosecurity; however, they have committed to joining the TOSMBP as a first step towards understanding how they can do more to protect their region and others against marine pests. GWRC intends to develop their marine biosecurity programme with support from the TOSMBP.

Activities

4.1 Provide information, advice, and support to GWRC to enable their council to establish a marine biosecurity framework through their RPMP

The partnership will support GWRC through the process of including marine pests in the Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management plan. This may include providing examples or relevant information to support the process of undertaking a review or developing rules for marine pests in the RPMP.

4.2 Scope out GWRC Communication and Engagement approach

The coordination team will meet with GWRC to scope out what is required.

Comms and engagement activities under Workstreams 3 and 7 will also support GWRC with their communications and engagement approach.

4.3 Develop an annual surveillance plan

Regional surveillance (Activity 2.4 and 2.5) will provide baseline information about marine pests in the Wellington region. The coordination team will support GWRC in developing an annual surveillance plan, including identifying key areas to survey.

4.6 Workstream 5: Working with Tāngata Whenua

Support our partners to build relationships that enable us to support tāngata whenua in their marine restoration efforts.

The Partnership have identified a desire to better connect and engage with tāngata whenua within their respective council jurisdictions. Each council is responsible for ensuring they are meeting the needs of Māori within their rohe and will need to engage with Māori through appropriate mechanisms determined by each council.

The Partnership has identified this is critical and will work on ways to better engage with tāngata whenua about marine biosecurity and keep them engaged and informed with the Partnership activities and progress towards our objectives.

This will include supporting council staff to better understand how the Partnership can support tāngata whenua with their aspirations to protect and restore their marine environments from the harmful impacts of marine pests.

Activities

5.1 Partners engage with tāngata whenua regularly to provide updates on marine biosecurity activities within their rohe and to understand the needs of tāngata whenua

Partners have identified the need to continue to engage with tāngata whenua within their council jurisdictions during the review of the strategic plan. The Partnership will support councils to engage with tāngata whenua on marine biosecurity issues, including providing regular updates about marine biosecurity activities being undertaken through the partnership.

5.2 Standard agenda item in monthly meetings to enable skills sharing

It is proposed that iwi engagement becomes a standard agenda item at the monthly Partnership meetings to enable skills sharing. The coordination team will support the Partners where required – this may include coordinating hui, providing collateral etc. A more defined workstream will be developed after six months.

4.7 Workstream 6: Wider Initiatives

Contribute to national marine biosecurity initiatives, e.g., consistent national guidance, policy and legislation and behaviour change campaigns.

The involvement of the Partnership in wider marine biosecurity initiatives will ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to protecting marine environments across Aotearoa. This collaborative approach will help to strengthen the overall resilience of marine ecosystems against biosecurity threats. It will also provide opportunities for knowledge and skill sharing.

Activities

6.1 National behaviour change campaigns are supported, or content used to support local behaviour changes initiatives and campaigns

A recent national behaviour change initiative has been launched by BNZ. Some of the Partners sit on the national advisory group for this initiative and the Partnership will utilise the resources where suitable.

6.2 Attendance at national meetings

Partners or representatives of the Partnership will attend national meetings, including:

- Biosecurity Working Group
- National Marine Biosecurity Forum
- Fortnightly Campaign Advisory Group

6.3 Attendance at national conferences

Partners may attend relevant conferences such as the NETS Biosecurity Conference. Partners to provide an update to the wider Partnership group on key learnings from conferences.

4.8 Workstream 7: Stakeholders and Alliances

Build relationships with other regional alliances and maintain existing relationships with allies within our region that enable us to influence marine users' behaviour.

The partnership understands the importance of working with key stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the strategy and influence marine users behaviour. Building and maintaining relationships with a range of stakeholders and other regional alliances will ensure the partnership can maximise the impact of its activities and extend the reach of behaviour change initiatives.

Activities

7.1 Relationships with key stakeholders are maintained through regular communication, and their needs are identified

The Partnership will continue to connect and engage with key stakeholders to ensure their needs are identified and priority activities can be undertaken.

7.2 TOSMBP maintains connections with other regional alliances and initiatives

The Partnership will connect with other regional alliances, such as the Top of the North Marine Biosecurity Partnership, Fiordland Marine Guardians, and others to share information and resources.

7.3 Marine Stakeholders Campaign

This campaign is focused on marine industries (both operators and peak bodies) such as the aquaculture industry, marina operators and marine infrastructure owners. The coordination team will work with the Partnership to ensure:

- Stakeholder identification - there is an up-to-date list of target organisations
- Organisations are contacted to find out what they need, e.g. events, newsletters, magazines
- Identify content and develop relevant collateral
- Identify a rolling programme of work – prioritising the most impact via the Partnership meetings
- The coordination team will co-ordinate the delivery of comms and engagement activities e.g., events and webinars, newsletter content and provision of collateral.

7.4 Annual TOSMBP Forum

An in-person forum will be held each year. This event will be an opportunity to connect with those working across the marine sector, celebrate progress, share learnings, and stay at the forefront of marine biosecurity trends.

For the 2024/25 financial year, this event will be held in Nelson on Monday 9 September 2024.

7.5 Summer Season Public Campaign

This campaign recognises the summer season as a key opportunity to reach marine users, at a time when they are aware of the benefits of the marine environment and are at risk of behaving in ways that risk its future – and so are motivated and able to learn new behaviours.

The coordination team will coordinate the summer season campaign by:

1. Review messaging and decide how the Partnership aligns with other national initiatives.
2. Ensuring all communications and content is up to date and aligned with other initiatives i.e., BNZ and TON.
3. Work with the Partnership to co-ordinate / develop collateral that different parties need
4. Identify channels e.g., events, industry / membership newsletters and agree what content the Partnership will provide
5. Provide surveillance / response teams with collateral as needed – and ensure they are aware of key messages
6. Work with the Partnership to deliver a public campaign

4.9 Workstream 8: Infrastructure and Technology

Continue to identify gaps in our infrastructure, technology and capability across our regions and support partners to develop an approach.

This workstream aims to ensure the Partnership actively identifies critical gaps in marine biosecurity infrastructure and technology and can support partners and stakeholders to improve regional infrastructure that will help to reduce the likelihood of marine pests establishing in the regions and utilises the best technology to reduce the risk of new marine pests from establishing and improve operational reporting.

Activities

8.1 Support project partners and stakeholders to undertake a review of critical marine biosecurity infrastructure requirements within each region

The Partnership will support councils and stakeholders to review current marine biosecurity infrastructure and identify opportunities to improve.

8.2 Continue to review and integrate new technology to improve delivery of marine biosecurity activities

The Partnership will regularly review and integrate new technology and systems to improve the operational delivery of marine biosecurity activities.

8.3 Continue to monitor and review the capability of the Partnership and partners to ensure an appropriate level of capability within the Partnership

The partners will regularly review capability within the Partnership to ensure effective operational delivery of marine biosecurity activities.

5.0 Implementation of Operational Plan

The corresponding Excel [operational plan document](#) outlines each activity of the operational plan, who is responsible for delivering each activity and the resources / funding available for that activity. Updates on the delivery of the operational plan will be discussed at the monthly online meetings with the Partnership and coordination team. Progress will also be recorded in the Excel [operational plan document](#).

An annual report (Activity 1.3) will be provided to the partners at the end of each financial year. It will summarise the work completed throughout the year and the progress made towards the Strategy objectives.

6.0 Programme Risks

It is recognised that there are potential barriers to the completion and success of the proposed operation plan. Table 3 identifies potential risks, impacts and mitigations.

Table 3 Potential risks, impacts and possible mitigations for the delivery of marine biosecurity activities in the Top of the South.

Potential Risk	Potential Impacts	Mitigation
New marine pest incursion	Marine pest species establish in new areas Impacts on economic, cultural, biodiversity and recreational values	Regular surveillance of vessels and structures Efficient and well-resourced incident response
Lack of community awareness and compliance	Increased risk of marine pest incursions	Develop a communications plan to raise awareness and improve education within the community Engage regularly with the community and provide updates on progress of activities
Lack of sufficient or reduced long-term funding	Delays or failure to deliver marine biosecurity activities Current established pests are unable to be managed effectively New incursions are not able to be resourced and responded to adequately	Key agencies to secure adequate, multi-year funding to support the implementation of marine biosecurity activities
Limited contractors, control tools or product availability	Delays or failure to deliver marine biosecurity activities	Programme timeline is well planned Supply needs are understood and secured each year/control season Contractors are contracted well in advance of operations Alternative contractors are procured
Health and safety incident (contractors)	Injury or death Delays or failure to deliver marine biosecurity activities	Review contractor H&S documentation ahead of work Undertake H&S audits

Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership								
2024 - 2026 Operational Plan								
Workstream	Workstream	No.	Activity	Timeframe	Lead	Objective	Council Funding	Partnership Funding
TOS Partnership Coordination	1. Hold regular internal strategic conversations that ensure effective delivery of our programmes, including fair	1.1	Monthly Partnership Meetings	Monthly	Coordination Team	2,3	In-kind support	\$ 47,000.00
		1.2	Coordination of marine biosecurity activities	As required	Coordination Team	2,3		
		1.3	Annual reporting	Annual	Coordination Team	2,3		
Surveillance and Response	2. Efficiently survey and respond to incursions of marine pests throughout the year. This includes communicating behaviour change to marine users.	2.1	Council-led surveillance at high risk sites	Sep - Mar	Marlborough District Council	1,2,3	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
		2.2	Council-led surveillance at high risk sites	Oct and May	Tasman District Council	1,2,3	\$ 40,000.00	
		2.3	Council-led surveillance at high risk sites	Oct/Nov and May	Nelson City Council	1,2,3	\$ 61,435.00	
		2.4	Council-led surveillance at high risk sites	Dec - Jan	Greater Wellington	1,2,3	TBC	
		2.5	Annual Summer Hull Surveillance Programme	Dec - Jan	Coordination Team	1,2,3	NA	
		2.6	National Marine High Risk Site Surveillance	6 monthly	MPI	1,2,3	In-kind support	
		2.7	DOC Motueka Marine Reserves Monitoring	Jan - Dec	DOC	1,2,3	In-kind support	
		2.8	Incident responses	As required	All	1,2,3	TBC	
		2.9	Incident response reporting	As required	Councils/MPI	1,2,3		
Planning, Communications and Engagement	3. Develop and deliver a plan for how we build and maintain our capability and capacity across our region	3.1	Develop and finalise an operational plan and review annually	Sep-24	Coordination Team	2	In-kind support	\$ 46,000.00
		3.2	Communication and Engagement activities are identified and integrated into the Operational Plan	Jul-24	Coordination Team	1, 3, 5, 6		
		3.3	Deliver / organise workshops, training programmes or events	As required	Coordination Team	2,3,4,5		
		3.4	TOS Marine Biosecurity Newsletter review	Jul	Coordination Team	2,4,5,6		
		3.5	TOS Marine Biosecurity Newsletter	Quarterly	Coordination Team	2,4,5,6		
		3.6	Top of South website review	July	Coordination Team	2,4,5,6		
		3.7	Maintaining Top of the South website	As required	Coordination Team	2,4,5,6		
GWRC Support	4. GWRC will scope out the inclusion of marine pests in the RPMP by 2025, leading to a response plan in place by 2026	4.1	Provide information, advice, and support to GWRC to enable their council to establish a marine biosecurity framework through their RPMP	As required	All	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	In-kind support	\$ 10,000.00
		4.2	Scope out GWRC Communication and Engagement approach	July	Coordination Team	2,4		
		4.3	Develop an annual surveillance plan for GWRC	Aug - Oct 2024	Coordination Team/GWRC	2,3,4		
Working With Tāngata Whenua	5. Support partners to build iwi relationships that enable us to support tāngata whenua in their marine restoration efforts	5.1	Partners engage with tāngata whenua regularly to provide updates on marine biosecurity activities within their rohe and to understand the needs of tāngata whenua	Monthly	Councils/MPI	6	In-kind support	
		5.2	Standard agenda item in monthly meetings to enable skills sharing	Monthly	All	6		
Wider Initiatives	6. Contribute to national marine biosecurity initiatives, e.g., consistent national guidance, policy and legislation and behaviour change campaigns	6.1	National behaviour change campaigns are supported, or content used to support local behaviour changes initiatives and campaigns. (if relevant)	As required	All	3,5	In-kind support	\$ 5,000.00
		6.2	Attendance at national meetings	As required	Councils/MPI	5		
		6.3	Attendance at national conferences (e.g. NETS)	As required	Councils/MPI	5		
Stakeholders and Alliances	7. Build relationships with other regional alliances and maintain existing relationships with allies within our region that enable us to influence marine users' behaviour	7.1	Relationships with key stakeholders are maintained through regular communication, and their needs are identified	As required	All	5	In-kind support	\$ 15,000.00
		7.2	TOSMBP maintains connections with other regional alliances and initiatives	As required	All	3,5		
		7.3	Marine Stakeholders Campaign	Aug - July	Coordination Team	1,5		
		7.4	Annual TOSMBP Forum	Annual	Coordination Team	1,5,6		
		7.5	Summer Season Public Campaign	Oct - Mar	Coordination Team	1,3,5		
Infrastructure and Technology	8. Continue to identify gaps in our infrastructure, technology and capability across our regions and support partners to develop an approach.	8.1	Support project partners and stakeholders to undertake a review of critical marine biosecurity infrastructure requirements within each region.	As required	Coordination Team	4	In-kind support	\$ 5,000.00
		8.2	Continue to review and integrate new technology to improve delivery of marine biosecurity activities	As required	Coordination Team	3		
		8.3	Continue to monitor and review the capability of the Partnership and partners to ensure an appropriate level of capability within the Partnership	As required	Coordination Team	3		
						Total	\$ 256,435.00	\$ 193,000.00