

## Marine Biosecurity Information – News and Events

### Marine pests – what you need to know

New Zealand's unique marine environment is under threat from non-native marine pests. When they become established out of their native locations, these introduced marine pests can cause irreversible damage to their new environment.

Marine pests spread easily through ballast water and hull fouling, threatening our magnificent natural underwater environments, biodiversity, seafood stocks and aquaculture industry. They can also cause costly and unsightly damage to boat equipment, wharves and other marine structures.

Examples of marine pests already present in New Zealand include the Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*), Clubbed tunicate (*Styela clava*), Asian paddle crab (*Charybdis japonica*) and the Australian droplet tunicate (*Eudistoma elongatum*).

Keep your favourite fishing and diving spots pest-free for future generations. Help to prevent introductions and to reduce further spread of marine pests by checking and cleaning your boat hull, trailer, niche areas (including anchor bays and holding tanks) and water activity equipment before travelling to a different location.

If your boat is heavily fouled, haul it out. Cleaning in-water will only spread any pests that were hiding on there.

Be aware of regional rules before travelling. Find out more about marine biosecurity including rules and regulations within the northern North Island regions by visiting:

[www.marinepests.nz](http://www.marinepests.nz)



Auckland Council needs your help to understand recreational boat users in the Auckland region. Complete our survey before 18th January 2017 and be in to win a Canon Powershot D30 underwater digital camera! The results will help to inform improvements to marine biosecurity in the region. Check out the survey [HERE](#) and for marine biosecurity information in the region visit our website at [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/marinepests](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/marinepests)

