



# Don't bring marine pest hitchhikers to New Zealand on your boat

More than 200 introduced marine species are already established in New Zealand waters, and it's estimated up to 90 percent of them arrived as biofouling – the growth on the bottom of vessels.

Once established here, introduced species can have severe economic and environmental impacts.

Biosecurity NZ has requirements to help protect New Zealand's waters from further introductions.

## Clean your hull

Most yachts visiting New Zealand should comply with the requirements by cleaning the hull less than 30 days prior to arrival. Before you leave for New Zealand, either haul out and clean your boat, or if this is not possible, clean it in water in accordance with local regulations. Be sure to clean all niche areas, including the keel, rudder area and hull fittings of all fouling. Most importantly, be sure to retain documentation of all cleaning activities, including receipts from haul outs and/or photos of the cleaned hull and niche areas.

## Antifouling (bottom paint)

Upon arrival to New Zealand, you will be asked to show evidence that your vessel has a current antifouling coating. This evidence can include receipts for purchase or application of antifouling paint, and/or records of paint application in your vessel's log book.

## Keep records

It is important to keep good records of biofouling maintenance, as this is how you will prove compliance with MPI's requirements. Acceptable records include:

- antifouling paint details;
- the date, location and facility/person that carried out the last dry docking/haul-out and antifouling;
- receipts from marinas, haul-out facilities and paint suppliers;
- date-stamped photos or videos of the hull and niche areas following cleaning.

Inspectors will request this information on your arrival in New Zealand to assess whether your boat complies with the biofouling requirements.

## If you intend to clean your hull on arrival

If you are bringing your vessel to New Zealand for maintenance, you can comply with the requirements by booking an appointment for your boat to be hauled out at a Biosecurity NZ-approved facility within 24 hours of your arrival to New Zealand. Vessels that intend to comply in this manner do not need to clean their vessel prior to arrival. See the Biosecurity NZ website for a list of approved haul out facilities.

## Boat responsibly

Once you arrive in New Zealand, you should be aware of local rules regarding biofouling.

Some regions within New Zealand have put in biofouling rules in order to prevent the spread of marine pests throughout the country.

Check with regional councils in your intended destinations within New Zealand to see if you need to take any special precautions before visiting: [marinepests.nz](http://marinepests.nz)

Biosecurity NZ officers can now issue infringement notices to commercial and recreational vessel operators that don't meet their biosecurity obligations.

- The infringement notices cover lower-level offences that would have required prosecution to enforce in the past:
- Failure by an operator to provide notice of a vessel's arrival in New Zealand.
- Failure by an operator to respond to an official request to declare what has been done to comply with risk management requirements (eg. biofouling rules).

The penalties are \$400 for an individual and \$800 for a corporation.

Biosecurity NZ still has the option to prosecute if necessary.

The new fines emphasise the importance of keeping unwanted pests and diseases out of New Zealand.



For full information on the entry requirements for yachts and other cruising vessels visit: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/yachts-and-other-recreational-vessels](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/yachts-and-other-recreational-vessels)

## Important information from Biosecurity New Zealand

New Zealand has introduced requirements to minimise the risk of marine pests entering as biofouling. These rules require all arriving vessels to provide evidence of biofouling management prior to arrival in New Zealand.

Compliance with these requirements will be based on the vessel masters' ability to produce documentation proving that biofouling has been managed. As most yachts come to New Zealand for extended periods and/or visit ecologically sensitive areas, it is recommended that yacht owners comply by cleaning their vessel's hull and niche areas prior to arrival. Yachts coming to New Zealand for refit or repair can comply by booking an appointment for haul out at an Biosecurity NZ-approved facility within 24 hours of arrival.

For full information on the standard, including guidance on how to comply, visit: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/biofouling/biofouling-management](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/vessels/arrival-process-steps/biofouling/biofouling-management)