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 over 85 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.

You can help protect New Zealand’s waters from further introductions.

CLEAN YOUR HULL

Before you leave your last port for New Zealand, check your hull, keel, rudder area and hull fittings for any fouling growth. If necessary, haul out and clean it. If this is not possible, give your vessel an in-water clean, paying attention to through-hull fittings, areas not protected by antifouling, and other submerged areas that either protrude or recess as these can harbour pest species.

ANTIFOULING (BOTTOM PAINT)

Ideally coatings should be in good functioning condition and applied within one to two years of arrival in New Zealand. In future, thorough antifouling will need to be addressed prior to leaving home ports for any voyages that include New Zealand.

KEEPM RECORDS

It is good practice to keep good records of your vessels’ cleaning and antifouling history, such as:

- 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;
- dates and locations for when you inspected the hull and whether it was cleaned as a result.

Inspectors may request this information on your arrival in New Zealand to assess whether your boat presents any biosecurity risk from fouling.

IF YOU INTEND TO CLEAN YOUR HULL ON ARRIVAL

If you were unable to clean your vessel before leaving your last port and intend cleaning it in New Zealand, it is important that you use facilities where waste water and debris are contained and treated before discharge. Advise the inspector who clears you for entry that you may require prompt haul-out and they will be able to guide you to the nearest MPI-recommended facility.

DO NOT BEACH OR CAREEN IN NEW ZEALAND WATERS

You should not clean your hull by beaching or careening your boat in New Zealand. In-water cleaning could be used for removing a light slime layer, and is useful for ongoing maintenance of a clean hull. But once again, if you have fouling above slime, you should only clean your vessel in facilities with waste containment so that potential pest species are not entering New Zealand waters.

The Ministry for Primary Industries has full information on the entry requirements for yachts and other cruising vessels at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/enter/ships/yachts

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM NEW ZEALAND’S MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

New Zealand is introducing new border requirements under the Biosecurity Act to minimise the risk of marine pests entering as biofouling on vessel hulls. The new rules, which are expected to be introduced in April 2014, will require all arriving vessels to have minimal fouling growth on their hull and be able to demonstrate evidence of cleaning at the last port-of-call, or of a good maintenance regime that will prevent biofouling growth.

Compliance with the new requirement will be voluntary for the first four years (until 2018). This will enable boat owners/masters to put in place the most effective measures to meet the requirements. Arriving masters should be aware that despite the voluntary period, MPI will continue to take action on vessels arriving with very severe biofouling. For example yachts may be directed by a border inspector to go to a haul out and hull cleaning facility for defouling at their expense.

Full information on this, including when the Standard comes into force, will be at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/enter/ships/yachts

Your biosecurity inspector will have information for you on arrival.

www.biosecurity.govt.nz

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