Cleaning on arrival in New Zealand

Cleaning before arrival is the preferred and most effective way to meet the requirements. However, ensuring you have an arrangement for your vessel to be cleaned within 24 hours of arrival is acceptable. You must be able to produce evidence of this arrangement on arrival. The work must be carried out at a facility approved for cleaning international vessels by the Ministry for Primary Industries. Further information is on the MPI website.

What will happen on arrival

MPI will use the pre-arrival information you provide (e.g. Advanced Notice of Arrival and Master's Declaration) to determine the likely biosecurity risks associated with your vessel. If your vessel is assessed at a higher risk of biofouling, MPI may request records of biofouling maintenance or hull cleaning. This is why keeping good records is recommended. Vessels which cannot produce these records, and are assessed as having a high risk of biofouling, may undergo a dive inspection at the owner's cost.

What happens if biofouling is found

If biofouling is found on your vessel, the associated risk must be removed from the water within 24 hours. This may mean:

- **Your vessel will be hauled-out and cleaned**. This option may cause significant delays to your journey, so it is recommended you arrive with a clean hull or a booking to enter an approved facility as soon as you arrive.
- **Your vessel will be cleaned or treated in-water by an MPI approved provider**. If the biofouling is restricted to one or a few particular hull areas that can be cleaned in-water by removal (with recapture) or treatment, this method can be used.

Any cleaning or treatment costs must be met by the vessel owner.

If none of these options are available, the vessel will be directed to leave New Zealand within 24 hours.

When cleaning or treatment has been carried out to the satisfaction of MPI, your vessel will be issued a biosecurity clearance and you can continue your journey in New Zealand.

Other good reasons to keep clean

Biofouling can negatively affect your vessel's fuel efficiency, speed and result in increased costs to remove the fouling. Biofouling can cause a powerboat to use up to 30 percent more fuel and slows down sailboats because of increased drag. Leaving fouling on your vessel for too long can also damage the paint and cause deterioration of the hull. Hull fouling is greater on boats that remain stationary in the water for long periods of time.

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May 2017

New Zealand Government

GROWING AND PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

GUIDANCE FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS

New Zealand's new biofouling requirements

New rules setting the maximum allowable levels of biofouling on vessels arriving in New Zealand will be enforced from May 2018.

UNDER THE CRAFT RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD, ALL VESSELS MUST ARRIVE IN NEW ZEALAND WITH A 'CLEAN' HULL.

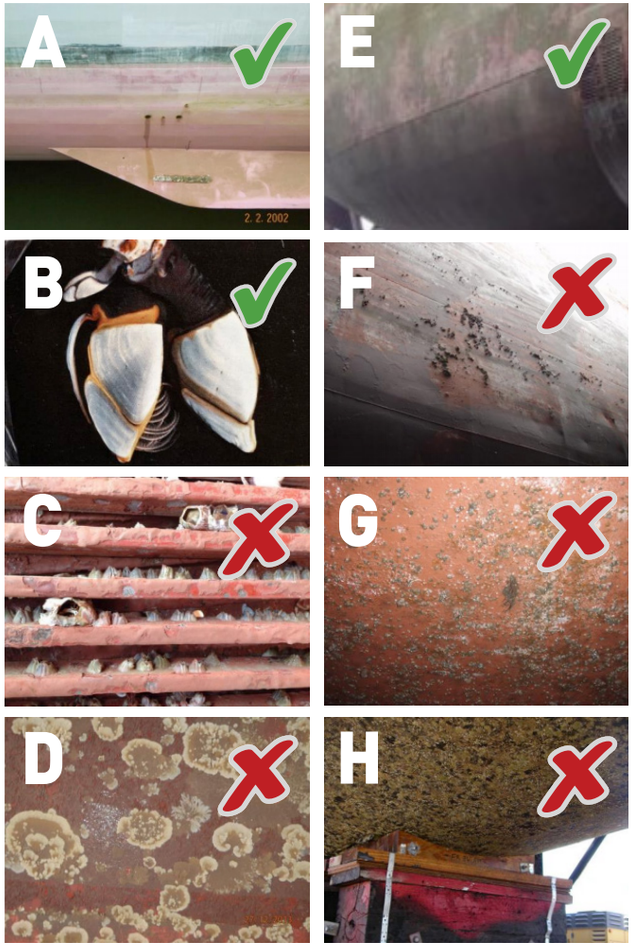
Why we are taking action:

Once established in New Zealand, foreign marine species can have severe economic and environmental impacts on the marine environment. They can damage the very things that make New Zealand an appealing cruising destination such as pristine beaches, unique diving and abundant fish life. Introduced marine species most commonly arrive in New Zealand waters on international vessels as biofouling (the growth on the hull and underwater fittings).

What will be required

Most yachts and recreational vessels coming into New Zealand will fall into a category called 'long-stay vessels'. These vessels are those coming to New Zealand for 21 days or more and/or visiting places other than registered places of first arrival (where Quarantine Inspectors are based to receive and inspect arriving vessels).

There is a biofouling threshold (maximum allowable level of fouling) set for long-stay vessels – this stipulates that only a slime layer and goose barnacles are acceptable.



The only fouling a long-stay vessel may have is a slime layer (A) and gooseneck barnacles (B). Any other species, such as the acorn barnacle (C), or bryozoans (D), are not allowed. The images on the right show a slime layer (E) which would meet the new requirements, and moderate (F) extensive (G) and very heavy (H) levels of fouling which would not meet the new requirements.

(Images: John A Lewis, ES Link Services Pty Ltd).

HOW TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS

If you're the operator of a yacht or recreational vessel coming to New Zealand, you can meet New Zealand's rules on biofouling by making sure you:

- regularly clean and antifoul your vessel's hull and niche areas e.g. rudder, hull fittings, areas that protrude or recess into the hull. Ensure they are kept free of biofouling and that your antifouling paint is in good condition and working effectively.
- check your hull, keel, rudder area and hull fittings for any fouling growth prior to setting sail for New Zealand from your last location. Pay attention to fittings and areas not protected by antifouling, and to other submerged areas that either protrude or form a recess into the hull as these can harbour pest species. If necessary, you should haul out your vessel and clean the hull less than 30 days before entering New Zealand.

Managing marine growth in internal seawater systems

Internal seawater systems are known to be a high-risk area for biofouling and may contain large numbers of foreign marine species. These systems should be regularly monitored to ensure biofouling growth does not accumulate. If the vessel has been stationary for a long time; you are moving to a new location; or you are slipping your vessel for maintenance, you should treat or flush these internal systems with fresh water or use an approved chemical treatment as a preventative measure to keep the system clean.

Keep records

Keep a record of your biofouling maintenance (e.g. the date, location and facility that carried out the last dry docking/haul-out and antifouling; receipts from marinas, haul-out facilities and paint suppliers; a current antifouling coating certificate; results of a recent in-water inspection) or evidence that the vessel has been cleaned or treated less than 30 days before arrival to New Zealand.