Ref: CTO 2019 026 [G]
Marine Invertebrates: Live Marine Sponges and Corals

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to live marine sponges (*Ecionemia novaezealandiae* and *Geodia* species) and live marine coral (*Goniocorella dumosa*)

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for live marine sponges (*Ecionemia novaezealandiae* and *Geodia* species) and live marine coral (*Goniocorella dumosa*), taken from within the New Zealand exclusive economic zone (EEZ), in relation to the *Import Health Standard: Importation of Invertebrates into New Zealand, INVNONIC.ALL.*

Clause 11.1
Clause 11.1 of INVNONIC.ALL states:

> 11.1   *Following biosecurity authorisation being given, the container must proceed to the approved registered transitional facility which must be operated according to the MAF Standard 154.02.08: Transitional and containment facility for invertebrates.*

Following a biosecurity authorisation, the containers containing live marine sponges (*Ecionemia novaezealandiae* and *Geodia* species) and live marine coral (*Goniocorella dumosa*) must proceed to a transitional facility approved to the *Facilities for Microorganisms and Cell Cultures: 2007a* standard (154.03.02).

The National Institution of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) is not approved to the facility standard stated in the import health standard. However, the live marine sponges and corals taken from within the New Zealand exclusive economic zone (EEZ) are small in size, relatively immobile, and would not be capable of escaping from the facility without assistance. It is not intended that these be released from the transitional facility.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risks associated with this commodity have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.

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