

## NZ Biosecurity Requirements for Hulls

There is some confusing information out on the internet at the moment and this clarifies the situation.

Currently any international yacht clearing in to New Zealand must not bring with it marine pests on its hull. Standard hull slime is ok but exotic marine attachments are not. There is no change at present to this requirement. However, there is a draft document that MPI (Ministry of Primary Industry) have issued that covers the future requirements for hulls of vessels entering NZ. This is currently a consultation document although it appears that MPI are not really open to discussion on the topic!

This requirement will take effect in **2018**. It will likely require that small craft entering NZ waters to have evidence of a clean hull and may include provisions such as an anti-foul applied within the previous 6 months, or a pressure wash within the previous month. There is no such requirement for incoming yachts this year.

Within New Zealand the **Mediterranean Fan Worm** is a major biosecurity problem which regulatory bodies in New Zealand are trying to manage. The aim is to keep the pest spreading from infested areas to those that are not.

Small craft coming from infested areas (in particular the Auckland Harbours) into the far north or Coromandel areas (Marsden Cove, Whangarei, Kerikeri, Opuia, Whitianga, Whangamata, Tairua), are required **NOW** to have paperwork showing they have had anti-foul applied within the last 6 months or a pressure wash within the last month. Without this they will not be able to enter any marina in these areas. The Far North does not appear to have this fan worm at the moment and they hope to keep it that way.

Please note that the Mediterranean fan worm is **NOT** present in the Pacific Islands so while there is no specific control of this for boats coming into the country from the Islands the same does not apply to boats coming up from the Auckland or Coromandel areas.

So, this year and until 2018, there is no requirement other than the normal declaration by the Master of the vessel entering NZ that you are not knowingly transferring any noxious plant or animal into the country on your hull. This is a requirement unchanged from previous years. No doubt your hull will be cleaned before departure anyway to ensure good boat speed!

Please think ahead to when you want to leave NZ from the far North as this will affect your haul out and summer cruising options. A foreign or domestic boat that travels south during the NZ summer and then returns to the north will come under the same requirements as currently apply to NZ boats. You will not be able to enter a far north marina for check out if you have not had bottom paint applied within the previous 6 months or have had a pressure wash within the previous month.

(A small note. Gulf Harbour Radio is in discussion with International Paints as 6 months seems to be an arbitrary time period and we certainly hope that Chameleon's soon to be applied and very expensive Micron 77 bottom paint gives longer protection!).

REF : Thanks to Chris at Opuia Marina for his input to this document.

If you are going to be checking out of a marina in the far north eg Whangarei/Marsden Cove or Opuia, Gulf Harbour Radio strongly recommends you check with the marina before you decide on your summer cruising grounds.

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