



Wednesday, 13 May 2015

## TOS MARINE BIOSECURITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

### Purpose

This report sets out work completed for the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership for 1 July 2013 to May 2015. This is an interim report for the Partnership meeting in May with a final to be provided for the management committee at the end of June 2015.

### 1. Project management and Partnership support

Provided for:

- 1 Partnership Forum
- 4 Management Committee meetings
- 2 Iwi 8 meetings
- All project management and reporting.

**Note:** This item included: all servicing of the Partnership and its management committee including agendas, minutes and preparation of papers, meetings with the Iwi 8 to support them as kaitiaki representatives for tangata whenua, management of the coordination team, project and financial management and record keeping and reporting to the contract manager and management committee. All planned activities were completed and reports provided as agreed. The Management Committee was expanded to include a representative of Aquaculture NZ to reflect the importance of marine biosecurity for this sector. All key documents were archived in the internet cloud to ensure longevity and manage risks of data loss.

### 2. Media, public awareness and networking

Provided for:

- Website maintenance
- Newsletters
- Media management
- Network formation and maintenance with industry and other stakeholders.

**Note:** The focus was on building networks within industry and getting early information to prevent incursions. The network has been expanded to include ship brokers, commercial transport operators and private berth owners. Public awareness was provided for with media releases, and through maintenance of the website which was updated at least monthly. Four newsletters were produced (with one further in production) for stakeholder and the wider public consumption and sent to a mailing list of over 200 individuals and

organisations with wider distribution from stakeholder groups to over a 1000 recipients. A survey found a high level of satisfaction with the newsletter but led to more content on the national scene and partner activities. The new poster of marine pests has been well received and has been through several further print runs.

## **Pathways Plan**

Provided for:

Developing the elements of a legally binding pathways plan for the Top of the South including:

- A proposed plan that conforms to the requirements of the Biosecurity Act.
- Cost benefit analysis as required by the National Policy Direction.
- Supporting policy materials as required by the Councils including a proposed operational plan to implement the Pathways Plan.

The approach was specified as one that:

1. Identified high risk vessels.
2. Subjected high risk vessels to inspection for harmful organisms.
3. Caused the organisms to be removed in a way that creates minimal risk to the region or causes the high risk vessel not to enter the region.
4. Allowed low risk vessels to move freely into and within the region with a minimum of compliance requirements.
5. Included proposals for node maintenance.

As the year progressed the focus moved from regulation to exploring a wider range of options for pathways management. The legal framework was explored for a pathways plan for recreational vessels as a way of structuring analysis for all vectors. Envirolink and TOS funding commissioned a comprehensive report from the Cawthron Institute to provide detailed information on current vessel management, treatment options and constraints.

### **3. Science support and technical solutions**

Provides for:

- Science advice for all aspects of the programme
- Investigation of technical solutions
- Development of external research funding bids.

This will include technical advice on a wide range of risks, treatments, and policy development. A benefit cost model for marine pathways was developed and populated. The Envirolink proposal was developed and supported.

### **4. Survey and monitoring**

Was deferred for this year.

## 5. Incident readiness and response including updates to the manual

Provides for:

- Updating the Manual as we learn from experience and the environment changes
- One initial incident response by the coordination team.

The Committee concluded that the Manual only needed one update during the year and further revisions should wait on completion of new incident management procedures by MPI.

Nine incidents involving risks or incursions were recorded in the year to date. These included:

- Anchoring a semi-submersible drilling rig for several months in Golden Bay for which no risks were identified.
- Detection of the protozoan parasite *Perkinsus olseni* in a NZ green lipped mussel (*Perna canaliculus*) in a research facility with no effects in the natural environment.
- The Voyager P fishing vessel was found in Nelson Harbour with gross hull fouling of Australian origin and was dealt with by MPI by wrapping and slipping for cleaning.
- The marina manager at Chaffers Marina in Wellington contacted MPI about a vessel that had been hauled out to be cleaned and information we have suggests a colony of worms capable of reproduction has been present in Chaffers Marina from around autumn 2014.
- A marine farmer in Golden Bay notified possible incursion of Australian Droplet Tunicate which as notified to the MPI pest and disease hotline but proved to be a naturally occurring organism.
- A single Mediterranean fanworm was found in December Picton Marina while searching for *Styela* - on a new rock wall at the head of the marina. In April 2015 three further *Sabella* were found in Picton Marina pretty much at the same location as the single find in November 2014. Many further *Styela* were found and removed in the second survey.
- MPI (Richard Fraser) reported a new incursion of *Bonamia ostreae* in the oyster farms in the Marlborough Sounds. This is a new to NZ incursion. It was found by Cawthron in the course of other work.
- *P. olseni* was detected in scallop samples sent from locations in the Marlborough Sounds. The 'poor condition' of the scallops sent in for sampling could not be directly linked to presence of *P. olseni*. The investigation determined a multi-factor cause was responsible for the scallops 'poor condition'.

## 6. Links to national developments and to other regions

Provided for:

- Attending two events elsewhere in NZ
- Providing input into national developments such as the Pathways Project and National Policy Direction
  - Sustaining networks with other regions.

The team was involved in local, regional and national workshops as invited and sustained active connections with both MPI and councils in other regions. One national workshop on marine biosecurity was attended and included a presentation to Australian MPI counterparts.

**Financial Summary**

		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Cost to date</b>
1	Project management and Partnership support	\$33,000	\$20,937
2	Media, public awareness and networking	\$19,450	\$17,077
3	Regional pathways plan	\$30,400	\$10,512
4	Science support and technical solutions	\$15,000	\$11,812
5	Survey and monitoring	\$0	\$347
6	Incident readiness and response	\$6,700	\$3,395
7	Links to national developments and other regions	\$3,450	\$870
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	<b>\$65,508</b>



**Peter Lawless (Director)  
for The Lawless Edge Ltd**