

TOS MARINE BIOSECURITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Purpose

This report sets out work completed for the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership for 1 July 2015 to May 2016. This is an interim report and the final will be made after 30 June 2016 for the Management Committee.

1. Project management and Partnership support

Provided for:

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

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. All key documents were archived in the internet cloud to ensure longevity and manage risks of data loss.

The team was involved in local, regional and national workshops as invited and sustained active connections with both MPI and councils in other regions. The Partnership was represented on the 4-year research project funded by MBIE- "*What's at stake? Understanding the impacts of non-native species in NZ's changing ocean*". The aim of the project is to improve our knowledge about the impacts that non-native species have in our marine environments and of societal responses to them. To help guide the research and assist with its implementation, NIWA formed a project advisory group of experts and the TOS was represented by your Coordinator.

The Coordinator met with marine biosecurity staff at the Bedford Institute in Nova Scotia. They have worse problems on marine farms with *Ciona* than *Styela* although this is also an issue. They have offered to coordinate a visit for NZ marine farmers and biosecurity managers to Prince Edward Island marine farms so that the true scale of the impact can be comprehended. He also visited the Smithsonian invasives lab at Annapolis and gave a talk on the TOS there and met with a marine biosecurity scientist in British Columbia. Overall the TOS Partnership is operationally ahead of institutions at all these locations.

2. Media, public awareness and networking

Provided for:

- Website maintenance
- Newsletters
- Media management
- Network formation and maintenance with industry and other stakeholders
- An awareness campaign for the owners of moored recreational vessels.

The Team kept building networks within industry and this resulted in far more early information on risk events to prevent incursions. Public awareness was provided for with media releases, and through maintenance of the website which was updated at least monthly. Four newsletters were produced 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.

The Management Committee provided additional funding for an awareness campaign (“Keep your bum clean”) for the owners and operators of berthed or moored recreational vessels and this operated in conjunction with the Summer Vessel Survey (see below). Around 1,000 information packs were delivered to vessels around Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough. This included all vessels in marina and about 80% of vessels on moorings. This was then extended to all marina based vessels in Wellington and Mana.

Pathways Management

Provided for developing the elements pathways management for the Top of the South. Options were explored and a draft individual Council marine biosecurity plan was developed but completion of three plans of this type were beyond the Partnership resources and decisions from the Councils on whether to proceed with this concept are awaited. Support was provided to Nelmac and the Nelson City Council to operationalise the new Nelson Marina berth agreement that sets enforceable limits on hull fouling.

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 included technical advice on a wide range of risks, treatments, and policy development. A benefit cost model for marine pathways was further developed and populated. Envirolink proposals were developed and supported.

4. Summer Survey

Additional funding was provided by the Management Committee to support a survey of recreational vessel hull fouling beyond the marinas covered in previous survey work. On water surveys were conducted from Tarakohe in Golden Bay to Waikawa Bay in Queen Charlotte Sound and included vessels that were actively cruising as well as long term moored vessels. In all 226 vessels were surveyed and risk organisms were found at multiple locations.

A questionnaire was completed by more than 200 vessel owners and operators that provided information on boating habits (e.g. origin of visiting boats, places visited) and maintenance practices (e.g. antifouling and cleaning). An ongoing study conducted with

support from Nelson and Waikawa travel-lift operators will help to build a large data set from which questionnaire responses can be correlated with observed hull fouling.

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 Incursion Manual has been transitioned to an Incident Manual to reflect an increased focus on risk vectors. The Incident Manual has been updated and redrafted to reflect the move of MPI to a CIMS base for all incidents.

The Operations Manual has been discontinued in favour of individual Council marine biosecurity plans (see above).

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

- An ex-navy patrol vessel now privately owned came into Picton that looking pretty 'hairy'. It had come across from Wellington after 7 years in the water and was checked before being slipped in Picton but had no risk organisms. Results were nothing of concern found but did have plenty of old growth fouling. Also signs of where big clumps of mussels have either fallen off in transit or manually knocked off before the trip across the strait. Given nothing was found, took no further action.
- MDC carried out a survey of Duncan Bay, Pelorus Sound, and found *Styela clava* on a range of substrates.
- A vessel was coming to Nelson from Auckland. The skipper said they had anti-fouled the vessel but it has been sitting around for 2 months since being anti-fouled. Vessel was checked and found to be clean.
- Boat owner was interviewed in Lochmara Bay during TOS "Is your bum clean" campaign. The boat was recently bought at Opuia and was in Chaffer's Marina before heading to Lochmara Bay. It got picked up by MPI at Chaffer's during a survey for fanworm. Tim Riding found *Styela clava*. Boat owner was asked to clean vessel and complied
- During a recreational vessel survey in Tarakohe Harbour, the Coordination Team recorded small numbers of the sea squirt *Styela clava* on three sail boats, two of which were on moorings and one at a marina berth. *Styela* was also recorded on three mooring lines.
- During a recreational vessel survey in Queen Charlotte Sound, the Coordination Team recorded a small number (c. 10-20) of an unidentified sabellid fanworm species (small individuals <10 cm long) on a sail boat in Endeavour Inlet, later confirmed as juvenile *Sabella spallanzanii*. The boat was from Wellington, where it was subsequently hauled out and cleaned.
- A dredge was in Nelson Harbour that MPI wanted to wrap and dose. NCC said they need a consent to dose. Coordination Team advised that wrapping without dosing would remove the immediate risk. Dredge was wrapped.
- MPI notified of a tug that was being slipped in Nelson. It was infested with *Sabella*, the size range was estimated at 25mm - 80mm. As the vessel was being slipped, cleaned and antifouled on the day of the call, there was no further operational action required to mitigate the biosecurity risk the vessel posed.

- During a recreational vessel survey in Penzance Bay, Pelorus Sound, the Coordination Team recorded a yacht with suspected *Styela clava* on its hull, the specimen was removed for identification. Barrie Forrest confirmed the specimen was *Styela clava*. Size c. 4 cm incl stalk. The vessel had come from Mana marina in last 3-4 days, vessel. Boat inspected thoroughly on snorkel, LOF was 2 (niche area fouling), only the one *Styela* was found, no other recognized pests. No further action needed.
- During a recreational vessel survey at Adele Island the Coordination Team recorded *Styela* on a yacht. A sample of 5 *Styela* were taken off the keel. Owners agreed to have the vessel slipped immediately and cleaned.
- A yacht arrived in Nelson Marina directly from Europe. Had been identified at the border as a problem. Was covered in goose neck barnacles and had heavy fouling. Dealt with by border biosecurity but there were no risk organisms.
- Naval vessel “Otago” in Nelson was been identified to have *Styela* but leaving Nelson for Devonport for maintenance and was dealt with by MPI.
- Coordination Team saw a boat being pulled out of the water by the Nelson travel lift that had *Styela clava* on its hull. Followed up with Talley’s as implication was that their wharf area had *Styela*.

Financial summary

		Budget	Cost to 1 May
1	Project management and Partnership support	\$27,090	\$23,318
2	Media, public awareness and networking	\$37,010	\$29,007
3	Regional pathways management	\$5,300	\$5,810
4	Science support and technical solutions	\$15,000	\$9,975
5	Survey and monitoring	\$29,804	\$19,244
6	Incident readiness and response	\$3,280	\$7,685
7	Total	<u>\$119,804</u>	<u>\$95,039</u>



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