



# Partners Newsletter

## Keeping you informed

Summer 2018

### Summer Survey 2018

Since a couple of weeks before Xmas we've been busy talking to recreational boaters and checking for marine pests on their boats hulls, moorings and small structures like jetties. With a major effort underway to slow the spread of the Mediterranean fanworm, we've spent two weeks so far out-and-about, with a few days to go to complete the work. Most of our effort has been in the Marlborough Sounds and Abel Tasman coastal areas, to complement the fanworm surveillance and control work being done in Nelson, Tarakohe, Picton and Waikawa.

The good news is that no fanworm has been found in the TOS region outside the main marinas. The bad news is the clubbed tunicate (sea squirt) (*Styela clava*) is slowly spreading. So far we've found it on 11 boats right across the remote parts of the TOS. Most times these have been yachts from Nelson, with the sea squirt on the bottom of keels that lack an antifouling coating. The sea squirt has also been found on moorings and other structures, with hotspots being Duncan Bay, Nydia Bay, Kenepuru Sound and Okiwi Bay. Over the next couple of months we'll be finishing the survey work and digesting the findings.



Can you spot *Styela clava* amongst the other fouling on the keel of this yacht?



# New floating dock for TOS

(From Nelson Mail article by Tim O'Connell)

A new tool in the fight against marine invaders in the top of the south was deployed for the first time at Nelson in February. Acquired by the Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman District Councils in conjunction with the Ministry for Primary Industries, the floating Faddock will allow vessels of up to 20m to be treated for harmful marine organisms growing on their hulls.

Marine Biosecurity Partnership co-ordinator Peter Lawless said hull fouling accounted for 90 percent of the risk in the spread of invasive marine organisms around New Zealand. Most of this risk was on recreational vessels and the new dock will be able to treat vessels in emergency situations around the top of the south.

"This year we have found marine pests on Nelson boats as far afield as Queen Charlotte Sound so there is still work to be done on getting the clean below good to go message out."

The new dock can be transported to the vessel on a trailer and be deployed on site. The dock is inflated where it is needed and is constructed by Taihape-based manufacturer Incept Marine for this purpose, just like an inflatable boat.

"People haven't always been able to get on the Nelson hardstand or something's arrived and we just need to deal with it, particularly for the remote locations in the sounds - you don't want to move those boats around."

The floating docks have been used in Northland for the last two years. In the top of the south, the acquisition of the Faddock was triggered by the local management plan to combat Mediterranean fanworm, which Lawless said was a threat to mussel farms in the region. The pest could grow to more than 600 millimetres in length and could starve native marine species of food and living space. The fanworm had been already confirmed in Tarakohe, Nelson and Picton and had so far been kept in check by diver removal in those locations. Risk vessels can be found far from the ports where they can be hauled out and organisms can drop off in transit. Lawless said there had been a case as recently as late last year of a fanworm-contaminated vessel moored by the Boulder Bank undetected for 12 months.

"All the vessels coming into the marinas we are keeping an eye on that but the ones that go on private moorings we don't necessarily get any information on it - luckily it hadn't reproduced so we dodged a bullet on that occasion."

The dock will be based in Nelson at the NZ Underwater Services yard. With the help of Nelson Rowing Club and Nelson harbour master Dave Duncan, trials were being held at Port Nelson to decide how best to store the 300kg device.

"We want it mobile so they'll make a decision whether they'll get a specially-made trailer for it or whether it's easier to go on a pallet and put it on a truck," Lawless said.

Chlorine bleach is used to kill the pest organisms once the boat has entered the dock and it is sealed. Lawless said tests undertaken by Cawthron Institute showed that organisms could be killed within about an hour and a half using the chlorine method - while an alternative treatment for vessels larger than 20m was to wrap them in plastic.

"The chlorine is neutralised before the dock is opened to the sea again. It's not a magic bullet but a valuable addition to the toolkit. The most important thing is for boaties to keep their anti-fouling up to date."



## New biosecurity border standards welcomed in TOS



The Top of the South Marine Partnership has welcomed new border standards to keep marine pests out of New Zealand.

"The new standards are an important addition to protecting our region from harmful marine pests," said Clare Barton, Nelson City Council Group Manager Strategy and Environment.

The new border standards require vessels visiting from overseas to have clean hulls. This is in line with the requirements for berth holders in Nelson and Marlborough marinas. It also aligns with the clean vessel pass needed for boats going to Fiordland and entry requirements for Northland. Harmful organisms need human assistance to reach New Zealand shores; the usual pathway is as fouling on vessels or marine structures. International agreements have been in place for ballast water for some years.

New Zealand is perhaps the most vulnerable area to new invaders anywhere in the developed world, so it is appropriate that it will be the first country in the world to begin enforcing the Craft Risk Management Standard for hull fouling.

"The Ministry for Primary Industries should be applauded for taking the initiative to legally enforce the requirements here," said Clare. "The challenge will now be on all vessel owners in our region to keep their own hulls cleaned and antifouled to stop spreading the pests that are already here."

The new border standard will be enforced by Ministry for Primary Industries border biosecurity staff from May 2018. From May 2018, vessels must arrive in New Zealand with a 'clean hull'. This means:

- Vessels staying up to 20 days and only visiting designated ports (places of first arrival) will be allowed a slight amount of biofouling (slime layer, goose barnacles, and up to 5% cover of early biofouling depending on the area fouled).
- Vessels staying longer than 20 days or visiting places that aren't places of first arrival will only be allowed a slime layer and goose barnacles.

From that date onwards, if a vessel arriving in New Zealand has too much biofouling, MPI may restrict entry; reduce itinerary; or ask operators to clean the vessel offshore using an approved treatment or within 24 hours by an approved provider in NZ. As informed, these measures will be at the expense of the vessel owner or operator.

# Future management of *Undaria pinnatifida* in Fiordland

Due to the recent discovery of a widespread population of *Undaria pinnatifida* (*Undaria*) in an area of Breaksea Sound, Fiordland a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) under the Biosecurity Act 1993 was put in place on 21 December 2017. This notice was declared by Environment Southland with support from the Fiordland Marine Guardians, Department of Conservation and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

The Controlled Area is a measure to help reduce the risk of *Undaria* spreading from the population in Breaksea Sound to other areas of Fiordland via high risk activities such as via hull and equipment fouling.

The following restrictions are now in place until the CAN is modified or revoked;

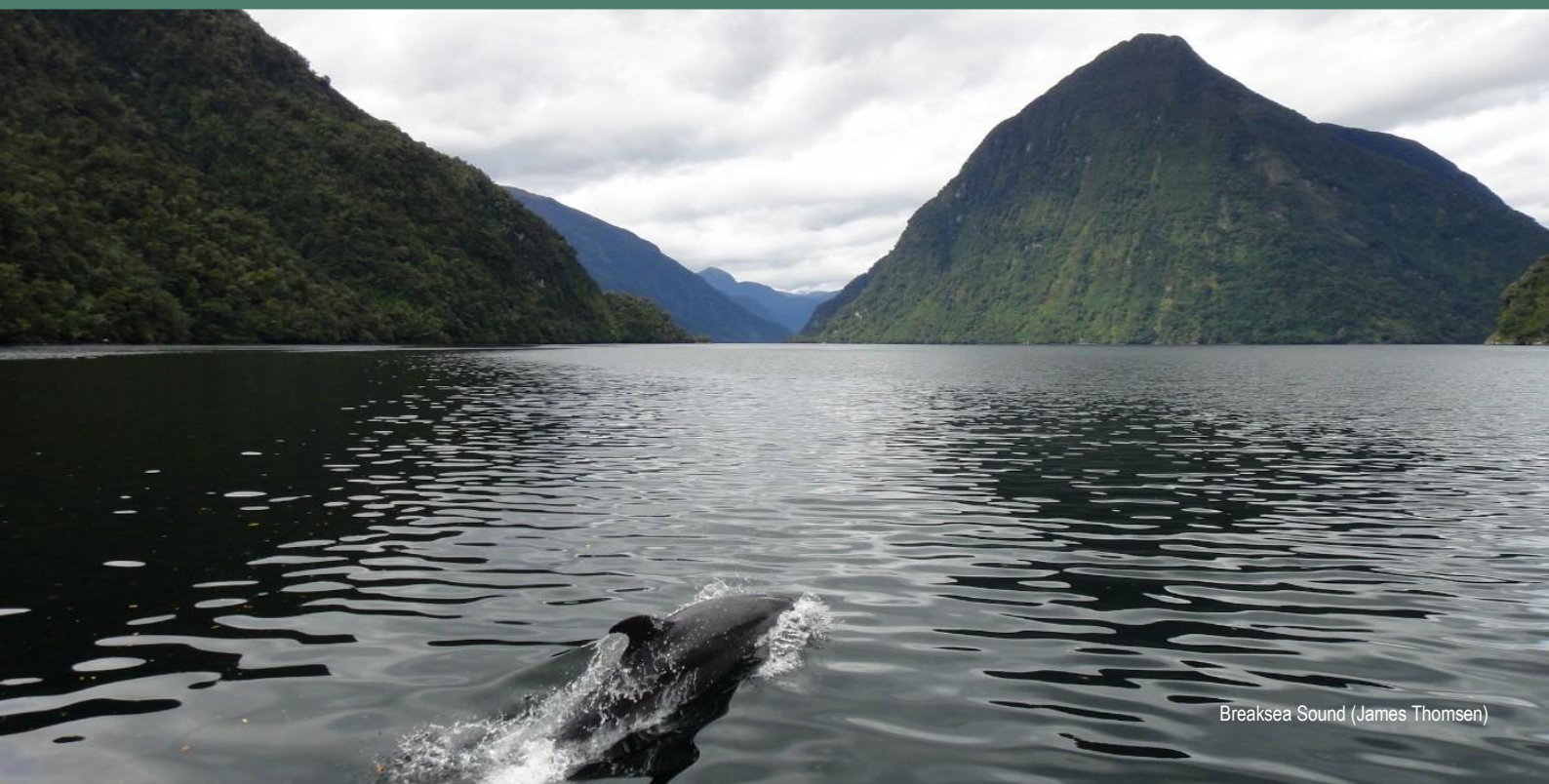
- Vessels may occupy the Controlled Area on a mooring for a maximum duration of 48h
- Anchoring in the area is prohibited
- No marine gear or equipment, including lobster pots, mooring lines and any other equipment to establish moorings, may be transported out of the Controlled Area
- Dive gear used with the Controlled Area must be treated or dried prior to use outside of the Controlled Area, using one of the following methods:
  - Dishwashing detergent 5% solution soak for one minute;
  - Bleach 2% solution for one minute; or
  - Hot water >60° C for one minute
- All on-board residual seawater collected in the Controlled Area must be treated as above or discarded within the Controlled Area.

Controlling the natural spread of *Undaria* comes with its challenges, however to prevent the natural spread of *Undaria* to the wider Breaksea/Dusky complex a science-led containment programme is in development. This programme aims to help address spore dispersal and limit the chance of sporophytes drifting out of the currently infested area.

Prior to visiting Fiordland please ensure your hull and marine equipment is free of fouling, and make sure you have applied for a Clean Vessel Pass under the Fiordland Marine Pathway Management Plan [www.es.govt.nz/fmpp](http://www.es.govt.nz/fmpp). If you are visiting Breaksea Sound please familiarise yourself with the CAN requirements [www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz).



*Undaria* on mooring line (Kath Blakemore, DOC)



Breaksea Sound (James Thomsen)



# TOS Committee member profile

## Jen Brunton, Senior Advisor, Long-term Programmes, Ministry for Primary Industries

Jen Brunton has joined the long-term programmes team at the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) as a Senior Adviser and has recently taken over coordinating MPI's role in the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. Jen brings a wealth of experience in working with partners on marine biosecurity issues where she has provided her marine biosecurity expertise into the Fiordland marine partnership for close to 10 years now. Jen was also most recently part of the marine response team where she specialised in managing aquatic responses.

Jen has always had a passion for the marine environment and protecting it. This originally stemmed from her upbringing in Fiordland and this is where her heart lies. In her spare time and weather depending, Jen's first preference is to go free diving either to collect food for the family or just to immerse herself in the marine environment.

Jen is also loving her new found role as a mum to a beautiful 14 month old boy and is looking forward to getting him a wetsuit.



## Fanworm suppression is working – so far

The fanworm control programme established in July 2017 are holding the line so far. All three councils notified small scale management programmes for Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzii*) within a month of each other and coordinated action was stepped up. These programmes last three years or until the new Regional Pest Management Plans replace them, or the situation changes significantly - such as successful eradication or major new outbreaks.

Fanworm is the pest species already present in the region with the greatest risk to marine farms and natural environments. While we do not know exactly how it might do under our conditions, in the Hauraki Gulf it has already formed a "closed canopy" over the mussels on a marine farm. This has the potential to intercept most of the food needed by the mussels.

To date, fanworm is known to have established at just three sites in the Top of the South - Picton, Nelson, and Tarakohe. The small scale management programmes aim to contain the worms at these locations and prevent wider spread. The two legs of the programme are:

- Suppressing fanworm populations at the ports to reduce risk of infecting mobile vessels;
- Securing our regional borders to prevent further introductions from highly infested areas, such as the Waitemata Harbour.

The programmes involve:

- Diver removal of fanworm from the ports;
- Surveillance of vessels and structures around the region;
- Intelligence gathering to identify risk vessels entering the region;
- Education of people with the capacity to reduce risk - with a strong focus on recreational vessel owners.

The results so far are good. Not one fanworm has been found on vessels or structures outside the ports this summer. This is particularly pleasing as the search intensity has been increased from 200 vessels to 900 vessels as structures. Inside the ports one new fanworm population was found and controlled in Picton.

The risk of spread remains. Risks could be reduced much further if:

- Every vessel moving in the Top of the South had a clean hull; and
- We were notified of every risk vessel entering the region.

If you can assist, please contact us at <http://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz/contactus>.



**MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**PORT marlborough**  
NEW ZEALAND LTD



**Department of Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**PORT NELSON**

**Ministry for Primary Industries**  
Manatū Ahu Matua



**Nelson City Council**  
*te kaunihera o whakatū*



**CAWTHRON**  
The power of science®

**Te Tau Ihu o te Waka a Maui**