



# Partners Newsletter

## Keeping you informed

Winter 2019



## Large Mediterranean fanworm detection at Waikawa travel lift

Staff from Marlborough Sounds Marinas Waikawa travel-lift alerted authorities in early May 2019 of a significant infestation of Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) found on the keel of a vessel lifted from the water. Apart from the obvious infestation on the base of the keel, the vessel was otherwise in immaculate condition. The vessel was purchased in Auckland and sailed south in December 2018. It is likely that an infestation of juvenile *Sabella* made the trip with it.

In this instance, the vessel was immediately cleaned and *Sabella* safely disposed of. The Marlborough District Council Biosecurity Team and contract divers then followed up with an extensive surveillance effort focussed on locations the vessel visited since it has been in Marlborough waters. This found further *Sabella* on the sea floor underneath the marina berth but at no other location which was a positive sign.

The detection once again highlights an ongoing issue with vessels originating from areas where *Sabella* infestation pressure is high, such as the waters in and near Auckland. The situation can be made worse as this pest readily finds areas on a vessel where either the antifoul coating is absent or in poor condition such as on keels. This can be through poor application of coatings or potentially getting comprised by groundings.



Fanworm on the keel of the vessel at Waikawa.

## Mediterranean fanworm incident in Nelson

On 14 June, during routine work in Port Nelson on a commercial catamaran of 25m length, Diving Services NZ found fouling by 50-60 fanworm (*Sabella*) on the port side hull. This find was reported immediately to Biosecurity New Zealand and the Nelson City Council.

All worms were small in size (30 - 45 mm tube length) and were too small to be considered capable of spawning. The owner agreed to have the vessel wrapped and treated. Richard Frizzell NCC Environmental Programmes Adviser said that he was pleased with the vigilance of Diving Services NZ staff and grateful for the responsible attitude of the owners of the vessel.



Wrapped vessel in Nelson



# Be aware - vessels visiting Marlborough

# NEW

## Visiting a Marlborough Sounds Marina?

To prevent the spread and incursions of marine pests, Marlborough Marinas require all visiting vessels to have been recently cleaned.

Antifouled  
in the last  
**SIX months**



OR

Lifted and  
washed  
in the last  
**ONE month**



Marlborough Marinas require haul-out receipts and paint receipts –for further information of what's required contact Marlborough Marinas.

Contact Us: (03) 520 3312  
[service@msmarinas.co.nz](mailto:service@msmarinas.co.nz)



MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS  
**MARINAS**

PICTON | HAVELOCK | WAIKAWA

## Coming to Marlborough?

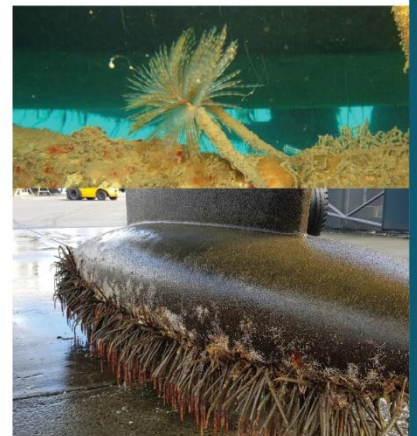
### Help Keep the Marlborough Sounds Pristine

If you are planning on bringing your vessel to Marlborough there are new rules that now apply to you in regards to the level of fouling on your vessel.

### The new rule states that:

The owner or person in charge of a craft entering Marlborough must ensure that the fouling on the hull and niche areas of the craft does not exceed 'light fouling'.\*

\*Light fouling means small patches (up to 100 millimeters in diameter of visible fouling, totalling less than 5% of the hull and niche areas. a slime layer and / or goose barnacles are included in this definition



Research has shown that there is strong correlation between the level of fouling on a vessels hull and the number of unwanted organisms that it harbours. Therefore by placing a restriction on the level of fouling that is acceptable when a vessel comes into Marlborough, we are significantly reducing the risk to the region of unwanted organisms.

If you wanting any further information regarding coming to Marlborough, please don't hesitate in contacting the Marlborough District Council Biosecurity team at:

[biosecurity@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@marlborough.govt.nz)  
(03) 520 7400

Or find more information at:  
<http://bit.ly/MDCMarineBiosecurity>



[www.marlborough.govt.nz](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz)



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# Successful collaboration for marine biosecurity

**Around 50 people attended workshops in Nelson and Waikawa in late May to learn more about the why's and do's of keeping the hulls of recreational vessels clean of harmful marine organisms.**

Participants were provided with information on marine biosecurity and shown the sorts of things that will grow on an unprotected hull. In each location a fouled vessel was lifted and partly cleaned. Marine experts explained the role of vessels in transporting marine pests around New Zealand.

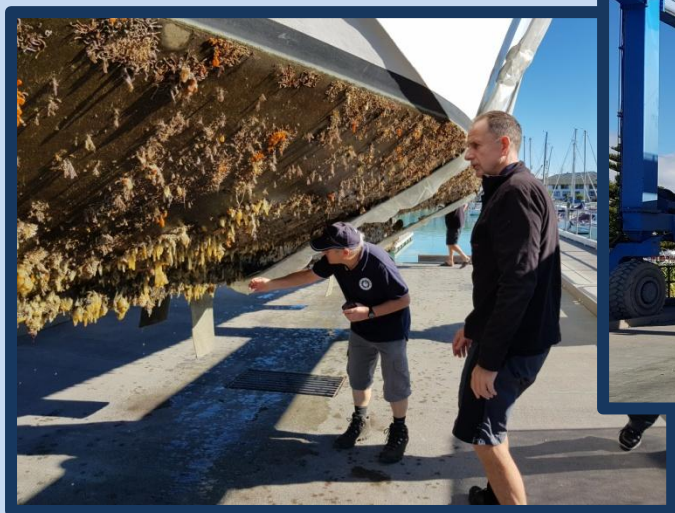
Long-term boaties were surprised to find how much anti-foul paints had changed over the years and what a difference correct preparation and application of anti-fouling could make. Really good work was being rewarded with more than two years of trouble free boating, while a poor job could see a vessel highly fouled in less than six months.

The development of new 'ablative' paints (in which, as the surface wears away, more active ingredients are exposed), and the way a vessel is used has an impact on which paint to use and how long it will last. For example, a yacht that travels at seven knots will need a different paint to a high speed launch that may exceed 50 knots.

Clare Barton, Group Manager Environmental Management, Nelson City Council, said she was happy with the turnout and the high level of interest shown by the boating community.

"Having the paint experts there made a big difference; they easily handled all the tricky questions thrown at them. We would definitely do this again and would be happy to take the events to other locations in the Top of the South if we get requests."

The workshops were a collaborative effort by the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership and Carboline Paints trading in New Zealand as Altex. The workshops were supported by both Nelson City Council and Marlborough District Council, and Port Marlborough and Nelmac as marina operators.



The participants of the workshops in Nelson and Waikawa were invited to go in the draw for some free anti-fouling paint which was kindly donated by Altex Coatings Ltd. The lucky winner was Ron Heskey from Waikawa, Picton.



# Mediterranean fanworm programme 2019/2020



Suppression of fanworm, *Sabella spallanzanii*, is the biggest coordinated programme of the TOS Marine Biosecurity Partnership.

Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman Councils together with Biosecurity New Zealand develop an annual plan in June each year to ensure the programme is effective. The 2019/2020 fanworm programme includes regional coordination of the Partnership, awareness and engagement, science advice and intelligence, delivery of the summer surveillance and survey, and diver removal of *Sabella* in the ports and marinas.

Some of the work is covered by annual contributions from the parties to the joint operational programme TOS Marine Biosecurity Partnership, others are directly contracted by the parties individually. Not recorded in specific figures is the staff time provided by the parties in the course of this work. Altogether to budget across the three council regions now totals in excess of four hundred thousand dollars per year. In addition, each council responds to multiple reports of suspect vessels and manages the process for checking and cleaning each.

New to the programme is the use of environmental DNA. Water samples are filtered and DNA markers are used to determine fanworm presence. While this is in its early stages the method has considerable potential to increase effectiveness and reduce costs. So far baseline sampling has been completed from Golden Bay to Nelson Haven.

The full operational plan for *Sabella* for 2019/2020 can be seen on our website together with the results from 2018/2019.

Peter Lawless, the Partnership Coordinator said "It's great to have all the programme in one place. This has allowed operational efficiencies and better reporting to Councils and to the public".



DNA water sampling at  
Nelson Marina.



[www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz](http://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz)



**MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**NIWA**  
Taihoro Nukurangi



MARINE FARMING ASSOCIATION



**PORT marlborough**  
NEW ZEALAND LTD



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**CAWTHRON**  
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**Biosecurity New Zealand**  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



**Nelson City Council**  
te kaunihera o whakatū

**PORT NELSON**

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



**tasman**  
district council