

# TOP OF THE SOUTH MARINE BIOSECURITY STRATEGY 2024

REGIONAL MARINE BIOSECURITY IN THE TOP OF THE SOUTH: FROM TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA, ACROSS RAUKAWA MOANA TO TE WAIPOUNAMU

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

### CURRENT OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

- **Partnership:** We are a successful partnership, leading the way in marine biosecurity in Aotearoa since 2010. Three councils founded the partnership with Biosecurity New Zealand and allies, to explore how to control, manage and prevent the spread of marine pests within our region. We are now four councils with Biosecurity New Zealand, as we have been joined by GWRC.
- **Capability:** We are continually learning and innovating together by drawing on both practical experience and evolving scientific understanding. GWRC are joining to consider their future approach.
- **Capacity:** We are continually growing our capacity to respond in our region and have a track record of exploring innovative approaches. We do not yet have consistent infrastructure, facilities, and capability in our rohe. GWRC are building their capacity and resources.
- **Alliances:** We have relationships with other regional and national initiatives. We will continue our work with iwi to develop regional partnerships to understand how we support their efforts around marine restoration. The entire marine environment throughout Aotearoa faces similar challenges, and each region's success impacts others.
- **Behaviour change:** Marine pests are not understood by the public as well as terrestrial pests. This impacts the pace and ease of behaviour change.
- **Scope:** Our focus is on preventing the establishment of marine pests and managing new incursions.

### OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- We see an opportunity for a consistent approach to marine biosecurity across Aotearoa NZ relating to surveillance, guidance and application of legislation, and behaviour change. So, we can **use our experience to provide practical advice and thought leadership** to the key agencies responsible for that.
- **Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has joined the partnership** and is developing its marine biosecurity capability. We are exploring if and how we can grow our regional partnership with other regions.
- We are working on how to build sustainable partnerships with iwi that support them in their aim to restore marine environments, including **taking better account of mātauranga Māori**.
- We want to better **capture the imagination of marine users** with stories that help them contribute to protecting the marine environment.

## TO GET THERE, WE WILL WORK AT...

### STRATEGIES

1. Maintaining and innovating how we do surveillance and respond to incursions.
2. GWRC learning from experiences of the Partnership and tailoring an approach to their context.
3. Contributing to the case for both technological and physical infrastructure development.
4. Encouraging and informing a consistent national approach— through communication campaigns, behaviour change, guidance, policy and legislation.
5. Maintaining programme sustainability through an equitable division of support, effort, and resources, maintaining a clear collective focus on our strategic outcomes.

## HOW WILL WE MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

### WORKSTREAMS

1. **Hold regular internal strategic conversations** that ensure effective delivery of our programmes, including fair cost and resource allocation and future programme sustainability.
2. **Efficiently survey and respond to incursions** of marine pests throughout the year. This includes communicating behaviour change to marine users.
3. **Develop and deliver a plan** for how we build and maintain our capability and capacity across our region to surveil, respond and communicate.
4. **GWRC will scope out the inclusion of marine pests in the RPMP** by 2025, leading to a response plan in place by 2026.
5. **Support our partners to build iwi relationships** that enable us to support tāngata whenua in their marine restoration efforts.
6. **Contribute to local, regional and national marine biosecurity initiatives**, e.g., consistent national guidance, policy and legislation and behaviour change campaigns.
7. **Build relationships with other regional alliances and maintain existing relationships with allies** within our region that enable us to influence marine users' behaviour.
8. **Continue to identify gaps in our infrastructure**, technology and capability across our regions and support partners to develop an approach.

## WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

### OUR PURPOSE

**Prevent marine pests from being introduced or established in our marine environment, manage established pests, and respond efficiently to new incursions when they are detected**

### OUR 10-YEAR VISION

**The Top of the South's marine ecological function is maintained and continues to be a rich and healthy marine ecosystem that sustains the needs of present and future generations**

### OUR 3-YEAR OBJECTIVES

1. Most **marine users clearly understand good practice** as it relates to their use of the marine environment and are increasingly motivated to prevent the spread of marine pests in our region.
2. We have **sufficient resources and capability** to provide or support a rapid response to new pest incursions, and to support our long-term pest management objectives.
3. We have **maintained and enhanced our operational delivery and behaviour change programmes**.
4. We have **identified critical infrastructure priorities** and are working to gain support from key agencies.
5. We have **established relationships with other alliances** around the motu, and we share good practices and advocate together at a national level.
6. We **regularly connect with tāngata whenua**, who have set principles for marine restoration, and we work together to ensure they are well supported to deliver their biosecurity aims.