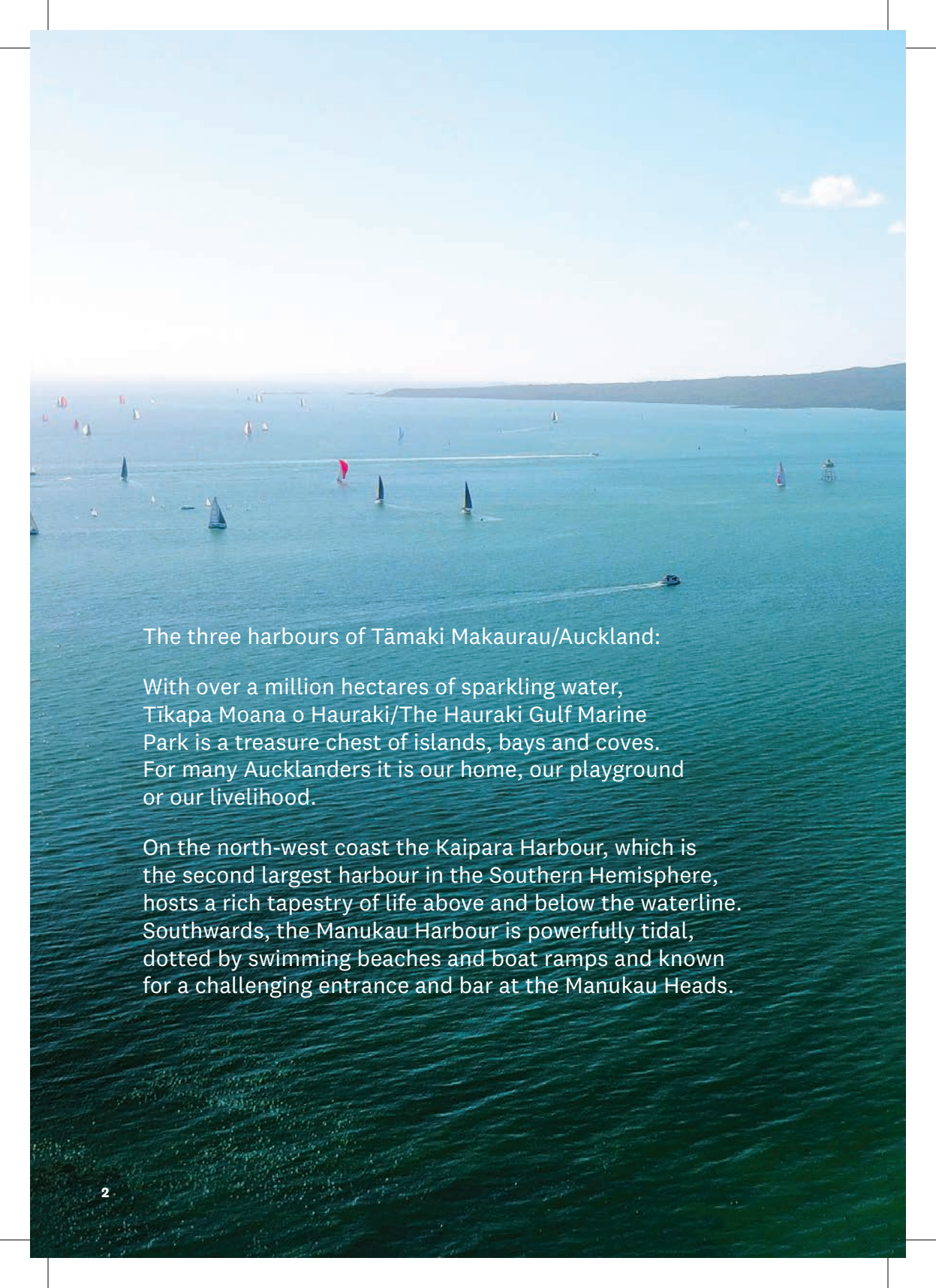
An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Auckland, New Zealand, showing a large harbor with several sailboats. The town is built on a hillside overlooking the water, with green hills and a sandy beach visible. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# CLEAN BOATING

**A boat operator's guide to visiting pest free  
islands, biofouling and marine biosecurity  
rules in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland**



An aerial photograph of a vast, turquoise body of water, likely a harbor or gulf. Numerous sailboats with various colored sails (red, blue, white) are scattered across the water. A small motorboat is visible in the lower right, leaving a white wake. The horizon shows distant landmasses under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

The three harbours of Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland:

With over a million hectares of sparkling water, Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki/The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is a treasure chest of islands, bays and coves. For many Aucklanders it is our home, our playground or our livelihood.

On the north-west coast the Kaipara Harbour, which is the second largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, hosts a rich tapestry of life above and below the waterline. Southwards, the Manukau Harbour is powerfully tidal, dotted by swimming beaches and boat ramps and known for a challenging entrance and bar at the Manukau Heads.



All three harbours host abundant underwater life, provide nurseries for fish and shark species and are places where migratory seabirds from around the world congregate, and where shorebirds like the endangered tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel, and Kōrora/Little Blue Penguins breed. Islands in the Hauraki Gulf are home to rare and endangered Kiwi, Takahe and even Tuatara, amidst unspoilt and regenerating ecosystems.

When we head out on the water we can help to protect Auckland's biodiversity by checking and cleaning our boats and equipment, above and below the waterline, as part of our preparation.

**Toitū te marae a Tāne-Mahuta, Toitū te marae a Tangaroa, Toitū te tangata.**

**If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive.**



# TOP TEN BIOSECURITY RISKS



## **Rats & mice**

These omnivores eat birds, seeds, snails, lizards, fruit, weta, eggs, chicks, larvae and flowers and compete with native wildlife for food sources.

## **Argentine ants**

Aggressive ants that can kill native insects, and birds. Known to swarm and bite. Take over large areas and are costly to eradicate.

## **Plague skinks**

Breed prolifically and displace native skinks. Easily transported in potted plants, compost and even known to hide in backpacks. And food items such as groceries.

## **Weeds and their seeds**

Weeds can hide in dirt, camping gear, shoes and wheels and quickly dominate and smother existing plants.

## **Dirt and soil**

Can contain plant diseases including Kauri Dieback. Most islands don't have Kauri Dieback disease.

## **Dogs and other pets**

Disturb and harm wildlife. Even leashed dogs can stress birds and affect their nesting, so dogs are banned from pest free islands.

## **Mediterranean fanworm**

With an ability to pack in 1,000 individuals per square meter, Mediterranean fanworm makes it difficult for other species in the vicinity to survive. Hitchhikes on boats.



### Exotic caulerpa

A pest seaweed that has been found in the Hauraki Gulf. Spreads rapidly, forming vast, dense beds or meadows. Harmful to fish nurseries.

### Asian Paddlecrab

Aggressive competitors with a vicious bite. Strong swimmers that travel attached to fouling on a boat's hull, as larvae in ballast water where they can survive for up to a month.

### Other marine pests

Marine pests can include types of seaweed, sea squirts and even shrimp but they have one thing in common: they thrive in local waters and they could change forever the places we fish, dive and rock-hop. 144 non-native species have been recorded in the Hauraki Gulf alone. Thankfully only a few are harmful.







# YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BOAT OWNER

## **If you have a moored boat**

Keeping a pest free boat means a clean hull to stop marine pests from hitching a ride, and a cabin free of pests like mice and ants which can spread from one place to another when you are on the move.

In Auckland, the level of fouling (LOF) on your hull and in niches of any craft must not exceed 'light fouling' – this means *no more than a slime layer and scattered barnacles on the hull*. This applies to any boat in the Auckland area – moving or not. It includes any niches such as inlets, outlets, rudders or propellers. *The species of fouling doesn't matter to this measurement: total coverage must be no more than 5%. However, if pest species are present then you must not move the craft to a new location as this will involve communicating (moving) the pest too.*

Pests like ants, rats and mice can make their way into your cabin too, either hitching a ride in your gear from home, or climbing aboard at the marina or jetty while you are away. Thoroughly check your cabin regularly, and set traps if necessary.

Hull checks can happen any time, anywhere. You can expect the rules to be enforced, particularly for boats that are moving to areas such as the outer Gulf islands, west coast and other areas that are currently relatively free from marine pests.

Breaking the rules could mean bad news for the environment – and you could be fined up to \$100,000 (or \$200,000 for corporations) for breaching them.

For moored boats, proactive hull grooming and a well maintained antifoul coating is the best protection against marine pests.

### **Info for trailer boats, jet skis, canoes and kayaks**

- After use, wash your ocean going vessel and equipment with freshwater and allow to air dry thoroughly before use in a new location.
- Before you head out again, check your boat is clean. If not, clean it, and ensure all compartments are dry.
- Look for signs of pests - gnawed wiring, droppings, small skinks and their eggs, ants, dirt, weeds and seeds
- Regularly treat any internal seawater systems – flush with freshwater or an approved treatment.
- Dispose of sewage and bilge water at an approved pump out facility.

### **Handling gear and equipment**

- Remove any water, debris or by-catch material as you clean, rather than throwing over the side when you get to a new location. This includes your anchor, chain and dive and fishing gear
- If you find seaweed on your gear, store it safely and dispose of it on land (ie in the rubbish bin). Avoid taking it to a new location with you.
- Soaking gear in fresh water can be an effective way to kill marine pests
- Check all gear e.g., food, open bags, camping equipment and boxes
- Clean dirty footwear and equipment before visiting the Hauraki Gulf islands
- Close your bags and use sealed containers
- Store rubbish in bins with lids



**A clean hull will help stop marine pests from hitching a ride. Most Auckland boat owners are doing a great job so far of keeping their boats clean and well maintained. Thank you.**

**In Auckland, the level of fouling (LOF) on your hull and in niches of any craft must not exceed 'light fouling' – this means no more than a slime layer and scattered barnacles on the hull.**

**This applies to any boat in the Auckland area – moving or not. It includes any niches such as inlets, outlets, rudders or propellers. Total coverage must be no more than 5%.**

The species of fouling doesn't matter to this measurement but if pest species are present then you must not move the craft to a new location as this will involve moving the pest too.

For most boats, this means:

- Keeping your antifoul coating well maintained and up to date
- Cleaning the boat regularly
- Choose the correct antifoul coating for your boat, its use and location

Auckland Council prefers to take an educative approach. So if your boat is inspected and is found to host marine pests or exceed the fouling guidelines, we'll work with you to develop a plan to safely remove the pests and clean the boat. We understand that it can take a little time and planning. While you can move your boat to a haulout and usually within your marina, for example to empty or fill tanks, the important thing is not to take your boat to a new location until the work is completed.

## **How much fouling can you have?**

These photos show what 'light fouling' looks like.



**Level of Fouling 0**



**Level of Fouling 1**



**Level of Fouling 2**



**Level of Fouling 3**



**Level of Fouling 4**



**Level of Fouling 5**



# WHERE TO CLEAN YOUR MOORED BOAT

**Cleaning your hull only helps protect our marine environment if the pest species you scrub off don't end up back in the sea.**

It's best practice to clean at an approved haulout or hard stand facility on land because scraping releases contaminants, including heavy metals and pests, into the water.

Tidal Grids are suitable for checking the underside of your hull and minor maintenance but shouldn't be used for applying anti-foul as there isn't sufficient time between tides for it to cure.



# WHERE CAN YOU CLEAN YOUR BOAT



**Outside the high value areas noted below**

OK if standards are met



**Outside the high values area noted below**

Resource consent required if standards are not met



**Hauraki Gulf conservation islands**

Prohibited



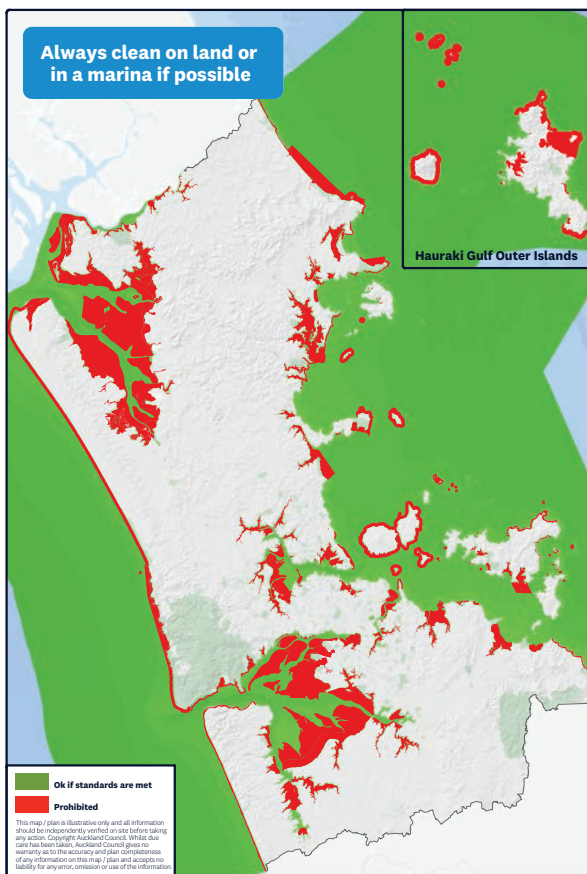
**Marine Significant Ecological areas**

Prohibited - see map

## No-cleaning zones

Hull cleaning is prohibited within 500m of the coastline of the following Hauraki Gulf conservation islands:

- Taungamaro (Beehive) Island
- Motukorea (Browns Island)
- Te Hauturu-o-Toi (Little Barrier Island)
- Mokohinau Islands
- Motuihe
- Motuora
- Motutapu
- Rangitoto Island
- Te Haupa (Saddle) Island
- The Noises Islands
- Tiritiri Matangi Island





# REAL LIFE EXAMPLES

‘Chris owns a small yacht on a mooring in Greenhithe. It has heavy fouling but there are no pest species present so far. We encourage Chris to take his boat to an approved haulout for a clean and fresh antifoul as best practice before he moves it to any other location because of the amount of fouling present.’

‘Sarah owns a moored fishing boat at Kawau Island. It has micro fouling and no pest species. Because the fouling is minimal, she can move it to a location where in-water cleaning is permitted and wipe it with a soft cloth - but she must not compromise the antifouling coating in any way.’

‘Trev has a boat with juvenile fanworm at an inner city marina. The most important thing is that Trev cleans his boat, including niche areas, before he takes it to any other location. Legally he can only do this at an approved facility that is close to him.’

‘Andrew’s boat is on a mooring in Mahurangi. It used to belong to his grandparents but now it’s in poor condition and cannot be moved safely because of its condition and location. Andrew should contact the Auckland Council marine biosecurity team to discuss reasonable and practical options in response to his specific circumstances.’

Tip: use your boat as often as you can to help prevent biofouling

**If you are wanting to clean your boat and are not sure of what rules apply to you, please contact us at [cleanhull@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:cleanhull@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz). For the full rules, refer to the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030, and the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part).**



## Hull cleaning: quick reference checklist for boat owners

If you are wanting to clean at a grid or in the water, there are a few rules that need to be followed. If **you cannot meet all of the relevant rules, you must not clean in the water**. There are certain areas where cleaning your boat in the water is prohibited. This includes any Marine Significant Ecological Areas or within 500m of any Hauraki Gulf conservation island. Please check our map before you make a start.

### Make a start

1. Check your location – are you in a green zone?
2. Check the table If you meet all of the relevant requirements (indicated by a), you can clean your boat in the water – generally this is okay if your boat has a light slime layer or less

	Gentle non-abrasive cleaning	Cleaning must not compromise the anti-fouling
Cleaning of a vessel with micro-fouling	✓	✓
Small scale manual cleaning (up to 5% of the hull surface area, including niche areas)		✓
Cleaning of a vessel with macro-fouling from within Auckland		✓
Cleaning of a vessel with macro-fouling of domestic origin (that is less than extensive to very heavy macro-fouling) following a risk assessment that determined a relative biosecurity risk of negligible or low		✓
Cleaning of a vessel with macro-fouling of domestic origin that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than low biosecurity risk,</li> <li>• Or has not had a risk assessment,</li> <li>• Or has extensive to very heavy macro-fouling</li> </ul>		✓
Cleaning of a vessel with macro-fouling of international origin		✓
Treatment methods that render bio-fouling organisms non-viable		✓



an clean  
r less.

Capture debris <50micrometres and dispose of this appropriately	If pest species found, stop and contact Council	Any discharge must be collected and disposed of	Anti-fouling must be within the manufacturers expiry date correctly
	✓		✓
✓	✓		✓
	✓		✓
	✓		✓
✓	✓		✓
✓	✓		✓
		✓	✓



# STOP EXOTIC CAULERPA SEAWEED



Exotic caulerpa is a fast growing, non-native seaweed that can form dense underwater fields, potentially threatening our native marine ecosystem.

Boaties, fishers and divers – when out on the water, take these simple actions to reduce the risk of moving exotic caulerpa when you head to new locations:

1. **See weed:** Before moving on, when you pull up your anchor, inspect it and the anchor chain for any attached seaweed. Also check any fishing or dive gear that's been in the water.
2. **Bag it:** If you find any seaweed, remove it and securely bag or contain it to stop it getting overboard and spreading to other areas – the smallest piece can spread.
3. **Bin it:** If possible, take the seaweed ashore and dispose of it securely away from the beach – for example in your home rubbish or compost.
4. If you can't do this safely, put it back in the water in the area it came from.



## Report suspected exotic caulerpa

Help us keep track of where exotic caulerpa seaweed is present.

If you spot this pest – either at sea or on the beach, report it to Biosecurity New Zealand.

### THINK YOU'VE SEEN IT?



TAKE A  
PHOTO



RECORD YOUR  
LOCATION



CALL  
0800 80 99 66

OR



VISIT  
[report.mpi.govt.nz](http://report.mpi.govt.nz)

## What exotic caulerpa looks like



There are legal rules (known as Controlled Area Notices) and rāhui in place at some locations where exotic caulerpa is present.

Find the most up to date information, including affected areas, areas under controls, maps and photos at **[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa)**

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government



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





# Do you know your marine pests?

The dive spots, idyllic bays and pristine coastlines we know and love as boaties could change for the worse if marine pests get to them. Here is what to look out for... and why.



## MEDITERRANEAN FANWORM *\*Sabella spallanzanii*

With an ability to pack in 1,000 individuals per square meter, Mediterranean fanworm makes it difficult for other species in the vicinity to survive. Imagine it doing that in some of our pristine dive spots. It filters large volumes of water, feeding on nutrients and plankton, including the larvae of our much loved recreational fish species.

Large numbers attached to your hull could be costing you a whole heap more in fuel too.



## JAPANESE MANTIS SHRIMP *Oratosquilla oratoria*

An aggressive competitor with a dangerous but impressive 'karate chop' ability to stun prey. It lives in burrows in the sand and mud, causing damage and making it hard to trap.

In large numbers it leaves no space or food for other native crab and shrimp species.



## Undaria (Wakame) *Undaria pinnatifida*

A fast grower that forms dense colonies on any hard surface - including your boat, shells, reefs, wharf piles and mooring lines. Wakame crowds out native species and steals their light and space. This could mean our favourite dive spots are never to be the same again.

**\*\*Sabella is a notifiable organism. If you spot Sabella, or anything else unusual, take a sample or photo and report it to the Marine Biosecurity Hotline 0800 809 966.**

## PYURA SEA SQUIRT

*Pyura doppelganger*

Do your kids love exploring rock pools? Then be cautious about this aggressive competitor that has the potential, in the right conditions, to alter our precious intertidal communities in a significant way - it could even suffocate our beloved green-lipped mussel beds. Currently only found on the West Coast of the Far North. We don't want it spreading further.



## AUSTRALIAN DROPLET TUNICATE *Eudistoma elongatum*

With a slimy snout-like appearance this species can form big colonies on rocks, aquaculture equipment and marine structures. In its a free-swimming larval stage it can spread far and wide. It dies-back over winter but in summer it leaves no space for native species and changes the beautiful sights of our local beaches.



## ASIAN PADDLE CRAB

*Charybdis japonica*

If you see an Asian paddle crab on your travels, you are unlikely to see many other species close by. It is aggressive and quickly out competes our native paddle crabs for space and food. With a vicious bite when disturbed, the adults are strong swimmers and can spread attached to fouling on a boats hull, or as larvae in sea chests or ballast water where they can live for up to a month.



## CLUBBED TUNICATE *Styela clava*

The clubbed tunicate prefers to grow on marine structures and boat hulls, affecting your boat's performance and hitchhiking to other places. It is disliked by the aquaculture industry because it grows in large densities on oyster and mussel lines, suffocating their shellfish, competing for space and food and adding to processing costs.



**In New Zealand most regions have marine biosecurity rules and requirements for all visiting boats. Protect the coastlines we love... clean your boat and check it for marine pests.**

Also check out [www.marinepests.nz](http://www.marinepests.nz) for ideas, advice and rules about marine biosecurity for boaties.

**marinepests.nz**





# ABOUT THE PEST FREE ISLANDS

There are an increasing number of pest free islands in the Tīkapa Moana o Hauraki/The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Thanks to animal pest control and eradication programmes they are home to rare and endangered species such as the kiwi, takahe and tuatara, and are one of New Zealand's treasure troves.

But some of these islands receive constant visitors and with this come weeds, pest animals and disease that threaten their ecology, their biodiversity, and their intrinsic values.

## Visiting Pest Free Islands

Visiting these islands is a special experience - they offer an immersion in nature and isolation that is very difficult to replicate anywhere else in the world.

When you visit pest free islands, please check all your gear - even your lunchboxes carefully. Camping and overnight gear offer an ideal home for stowaways as these items are often stored for long periods between use. So before you depart, unpack and thoroughly shake out tents, bedding, packs and other gear.

Many other islands in the Hauraki Gulf such as Waiheke and Aotea/ Great Barrier Island where people are living also have active pest



control programmes that contribute significantly to conservation in the Gulf - so it's important to be mindful whenever you visit an island.

### **What about my pets?**

Unfortunately for animal lovers, furry friends are not welcome on pest free islands.

Dogs and cats visiting areas where disease is present can move soil around in their coat or paws, inadvertently spreading disease from one place to another. Pest plant weeds and seeds can also be transported on paws and coats.

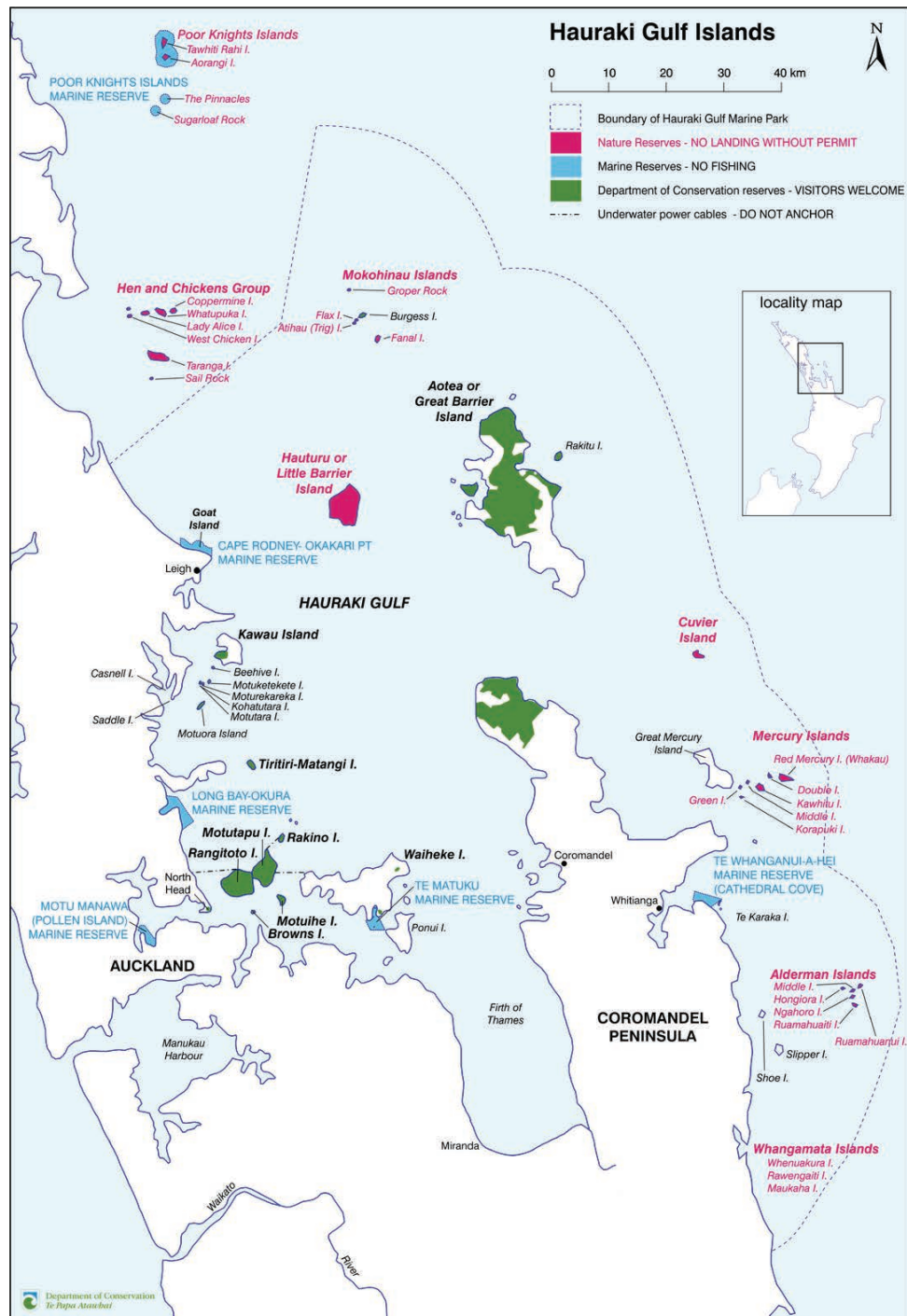
You'll need to leave them at home or on your boat, at least 200m away from shore. And if they are enjoying boating with you, make sure you have a plan that allows them to exercise and toilet at safe, permitted locations.

### **What should I do if I see a pest?**

Let us know! Contact DOC on 0800 DOC HOT or Auckland Council on 09 301 01 01. You can also email [biosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz). We recommend taking a photo, and if appropriate (such as for a marine pest), putting a sample in a plastic bag in the freezer. Marine pests should also be reported to MPI.



## Pest free Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana





### **Which islands are pest free?**

Taungamaro (Beehive Island)

Motukorea (Browns Island)

Broken Islands (Pig Islands)

Te Hauturu-o-Toi

Little Barrier Island

Kaikoura Island (Selwyn Island)

Karamuramu Islands

Mokohinau Islands

Motuhaku

Motuihe Te Motu-a-Ihenga

Motuketekete

Motuora

Moturekareka

Pakatoa

Pakihi Island (Sandspit Island)

Rakino Island

Rakitu (Arid) Island

Rangitoto Island and

Motutapu

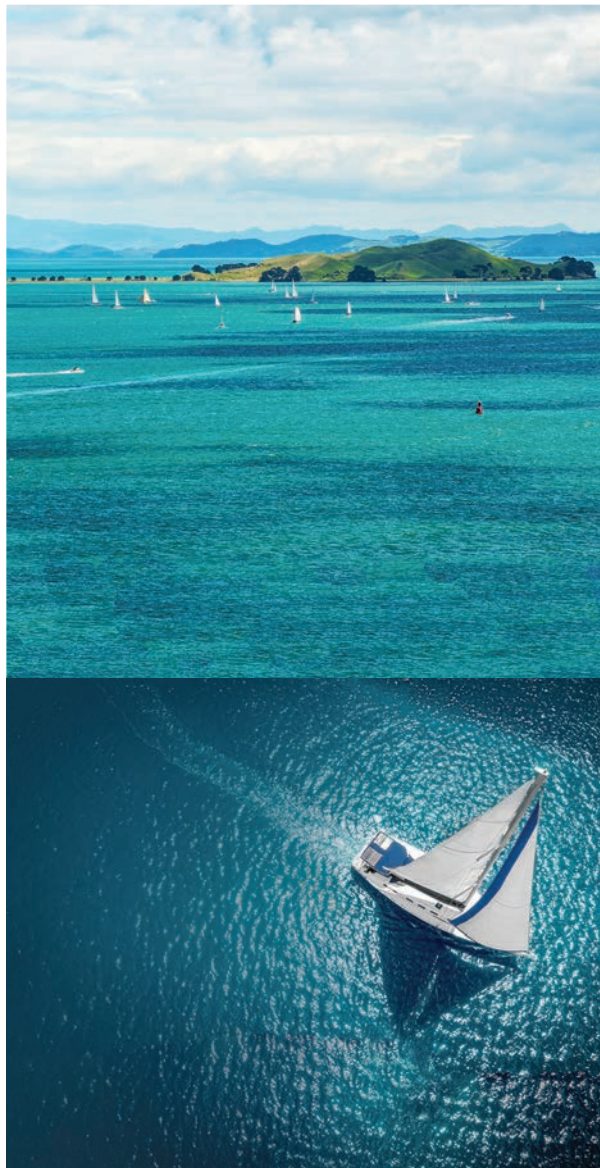
Rotoroa

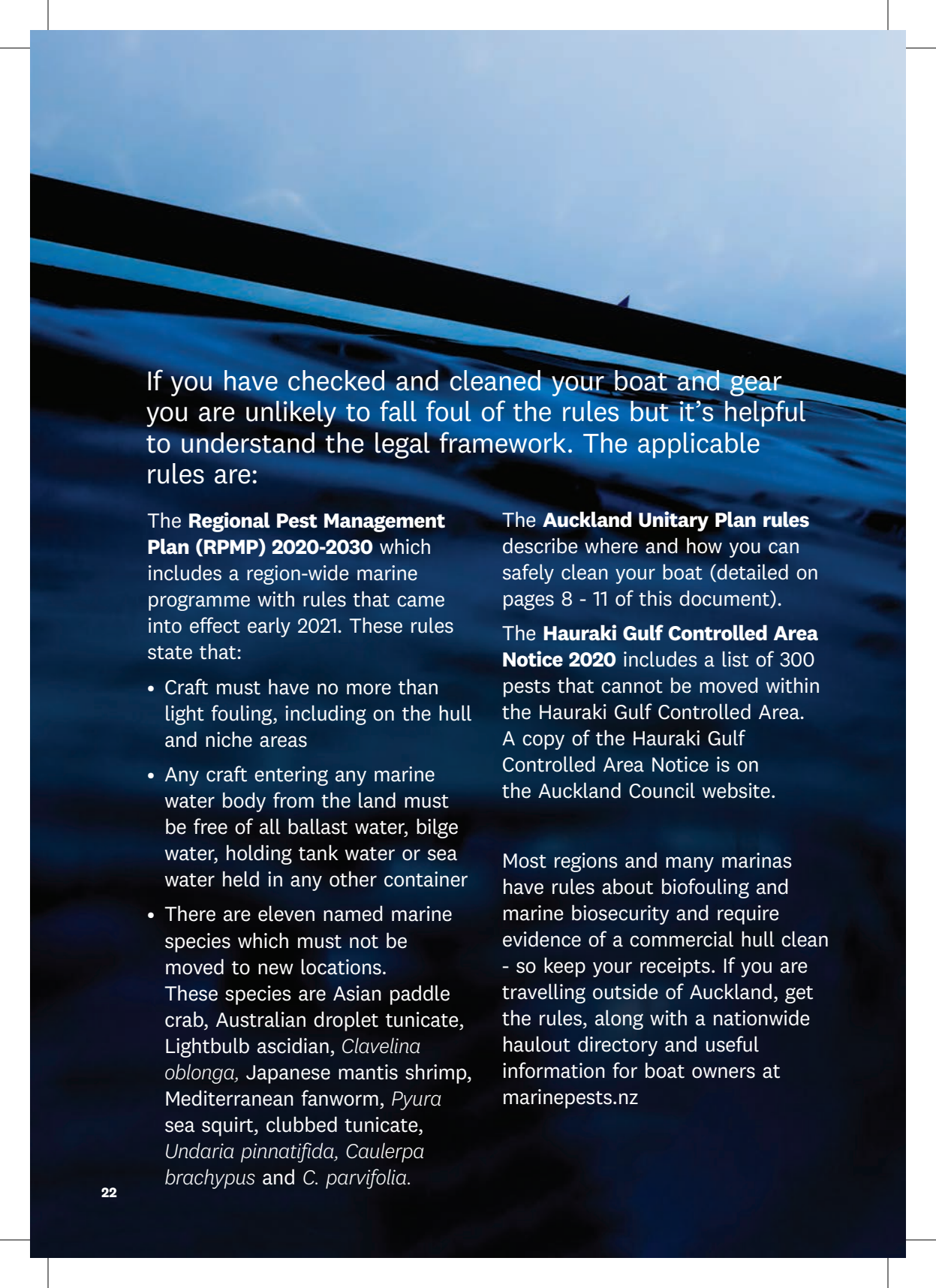
Tarakihi (east of Waiheke)

Te Haupa Island (Saddle Island)

The Noises

Tiritiri Matangi Island





If you have checked and cleaned your boat and gear you are unlikely to fall foul of the rules but it's helpful to understand the legal framework. The applicable rules are:


The **Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2020-2030** which includes a region-wide marine programme with rules that came into effect early 2021. These rules state that:

- Craft must have no more than light fouling, including on the hull and niche areas
- Any craft entering any marine water body from the land must be free of all ballast water, bilge water, holding tank water or sea water held in any other container
- There are eleven named marine species which must not be moved to new locations. These species are Asian paddle crab, Australian droplet tunicate, Lightbulb ascidian, *Clavelina oblonga*, Japanese mantis shrimp, Mediterranean fanworm, *Pyura* sea squirt, clubbed tunicate, *Undaria pinnatifida*, *Caulerpa brachypus* and *C. parvifolia*.

The **Auckland Unitary Plan rules** describe where and how you can safely clean your boat (detailed on pages 8 - 11 of this document).

The **Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice 2020** includes a list of 300 pests that cannot be moved within the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area. A copy of the Hauraki Gulf Controlled Area Notice is on the Auckland Council website.

Most regions and many marinas have rules about biofouling and marine biosecurity and require evidence of a commercial hull clean - so keep your receipts. If you are travelling outside of Auckland, get the rules, along with a nationwide haulout directory and useful information for boat owners at [marinepests.nz](http://marinepests.nz)



**Tip:** Make sure you also familiarise yourself with rules and advice around boat sewage discharge in the Auckland Region too. There are places where you can and can't discharge your holding tanks.

**Get all you need at**  
**[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/marinepests)**  
**[marinepests](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pestfreeaurakigulf) and**  
**[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pestfreeaurakigulf)**  
**[pestfreeaurakigulf](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/pestfreeaurakigulf)**

**Contact the Auckland**  
**marine biosecurity team**  
**at [marinebiosecurity@](mailto:marinebiosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)**  
**[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:marinebiosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)**





# PROTECT OUR HAURAKI GULF



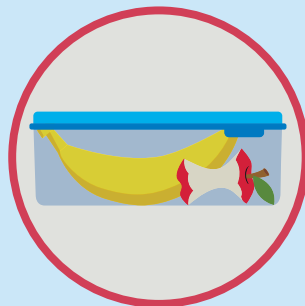
## Check

your belongings  
for pests



## Clean

your gear and/or  
boat before you go



## Close

all food in sealed  
containers



What to do when you find a pest:

- Catch and contain
- Report any sightings
- For further instructions call **0800 DOCHOT (0800 362 468)**  
or email **biosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz**

Visit **[our.auckland.nz/haurakigulf](https://our.auckland.nz/haurakigulf)**  
to learn more from Auckland Council.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



# GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADVICE

Here are a few ways we can minimise our impact on the environment while out and about on our boats

## Rubbish

No rubbish can be dumped in the sea or on land. Take your rubbish home or dispose of it at an approved facility. Removing any excess packaging before you leave home can be a great space saver.

## Oil spills

Deal with spills of oil or fuel from your boat immediately and clean them using special sorbent material. You can buy sorbent pads from most chandlers or marine stores.

Dispose of any oil or oily waste at your local transfer station or through a waste contractor.

Report spills of oil, petrol or diesel to the Harbourmaster duty officer on 09 362 0397.

## Choosing an antifoul

Use low impact antifouling products, such as non-copper, low copper formulation or low copper release antifouling paint.

## Choose cleaning products with care

Whether washing dishes, washing your hair or cleaning equipment, if they discharge to the sea look for products that are environmentally friendly.



## Discharging of sewage

Untreated sewage can contaminate the shellfish we eat, or make water unsafe for swimming for a long time after it is discharged. If you are a boat owner, play your part in protecting our harbours by disposing of your boat sewage properly. If you need to discharge untreated sewage from a boat, make sure you are underway, well offshore, in open water and away from other boats.

You must be:

- in water more than 5m deep
- more than 500m from shore
- more than 500m from a marine farm
- more than 500m from a customary fishing reserve (mataitai)
- more than 200m from a marine reserve.

Our rules also specify that you cannot discharge in:

- Waitemata Harbour
- Mahurangi Harbour
- Bostaquet Bay, Kawau Island
- Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier Island
- Nagle Cove, Great Barrier Island
- Tryphena Harbour, Great Barrier Island.

### Our tips:

- Use toilets on shore before you depart.
- Fit a holding tank.
- Use pump-out facilities where available, such as those at many of Auckland's marinas.
- Install a treatment system for your boat.

Get more information on boat sewage discharge on [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)







# Protect our coastlines

Marine pests threaten the coastlines we love,  
but as boaties we can play our part by  
keeping our boats clean and well maintained.

Do you know the local rules?

Get it sorted at

[www.marinepests.nz](http://www.marinepests.nz)

