

# Did you know that marine pests can hitchhike underwater on boats?



They can have a serious effect on your boat and also the natural places you enjoy. It is important that you keep your boat clean and free of pests.



## WHAT IS BIOFOULING

Plants and organisms can build up on any surface that is underwater. This is called biofouling. Biofouling increases the longer a boat stays in the water. It's one of the most common ways marine pests spread. You should ensure that there is no more than a light slime layer on your boat when you take it out.

Anything that goes in the water can spread marine pests. This includes the boat and its engine cooling system, anchors, ropes and deck.



## ON YOUR BOAT

- Block water pipes
- Reduce fuel efficiency and speed
- Make your boat slower
- Shorten the life of your boat and gear



## IN THE ENVIRONMENT

- Destroy our beautiful rock pools and beaches
- Ruin recreational and commercial fishing
- Make it more difficult to farm oysters and mussels

## TIPS AND ADVICE

- Pests like ants and rats can also hitchhike on any boat! Make sure you don't accidentally transport them to our beautiful islands.
- Tidal grids are convenient for jobs such as checking your keel, rudder or replacing anodes but not suitable for hull cleaning and antifouling. This is because there isn't time for antifouling to cure between tidal cycles and also because scraping releases contaminants, including heavy metals and pests, into the water. We recommend using an approved haulout facility instead.
- Please help protect your boat and New Zealand's coastlines. Make sure your boat is cleaned and antifouled. You need to choose the right antifoul and apply it properly. We recommend you get professional advice and help.



Most regions and marinas have rules about marine pests. If you take your boat to another place and marine pests are found, you might be turned away or required to clean your boat if it has biofouling. Check the rules for the places you are visiting at

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