



What are they?

Marine pests are animals and plants that have been introduced to our waters from other countries. Many of us are familiar with the damage caused to our environment by introduced terrestrial pests (eg mimosa, pigs, rabbits), but may not be aware that marine pests pose a similar threat to our aquatic environments. Marine pests come in all shapes and sizes, from microscopic organisms to large species of seaweed, molluscs and crabs.

How do they get here and spread?

Marine Pests can be introduced and spread by hitching a ride in ballast water or on the hulls of vessels. Marine pests can be transported by any type of vessel, from large cargo ships to small cruising yachts and pleasure craft and also by marine gear (eg buoys, nets etc.). Imported aquarium or aquaculture species can also become pests if released into natural waterways.

What problems do they cause?

Marine Pests:

- Have no predators in their new environment and they breed quickly and produce large numbers of offspring,
- Dominate their new environment and compete with native species for food and shelter; and
- Threaten habitats, food chains, marine industries, public health and our enjoyment of the marine environment.

You can help!

Make sure marine pests don't hitch a ride with you.

Follow six simple steps to keep your boat and gear clean:

1. **DISLodge** all plants and animals from your boat and gear
2. **DRAIN** your boat and gear on land
3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait on land
4. **DOUSE** your boat and gear with fresh water
5. **DRY** your boat and gear
6. **DON'T FORGET** antifouling for moored vessels

Keep an eye out for new species in your area.

As keen fishermen, boat users, divers etc, you should become familiar with the animals and plants at your favourite locations and notice any new species that have not been there before.

You can play an important part in helping to detect marine pests early enough for eradication to be feasible.

If you think you have spotted a marine pest, take a photo and a sample of the animal or plant and call Aquatic Biosecurity on **0413 381 094**, or email

aquaticbiosecurity@nt.gov.au.

For more information visit **www.fisheries.nt.gov.au**

Some Marine Pests



Black-striped mussels - *Mytilopsis sallei*



Asian bag mussels - *Musculista senhousia*



Asian green mussels - *Perna viridis*



Factsheet

Marine Pests

Use the six D's	Areas to target in your boat	Why?	Personal water craft (windsurfers, canoes)		
			Moored vessels		
			Trailerable vessels (yachts, speed boats, tinnies, jetskis)		
1. DISLODGE all plants and animals and bin them	FOULING SURFACES including hull, hull fittings (propeller, rudder etc.) water intake pipes, anchor and anchor ropes/chains.	To stop pests growing on or in your boat.	✓	✓	✓
2. DRAIN water from boat and gear. Try not to let it drain back into the water.	DAMP PLACES including water in the bottom of the vessel, gear compartments, anchor wells, buckets	To kill any eggs and small pests in water or damp places	✓	✓	✓
3. DISPOSE of unwanted bait in a bin.	Any species removed from the water for bait, frozen bait or bait packaging	To kill any pests used as or attached to bait or bait packing	✓	✓	✓
4. DOUSE your boat and gear with freshwater. Try not to let it drain back into the water.	FOULING SURFACES including hull, hull fittings (propeller, rudder etc.) water intake pipes, anchor and anchor ropes/chains.	To wash away or kill any eggs and small pests in water or damp places	✓	✓	✓
5. DRY your boat and equipment.	GEAR including nets, wetsuits, life jackets, fishing rods, tackle boxes, buckets, trailers and towing accessories.	To kill any eggs and small pests in water or damp places	✓	✓	✓
6. DONT FORGET to apply an authorised anti-foulant where appropriate (within the antifoulant maximum in-service period and as directed on the can)	HULLS , rudders, sea-intakes and other underwater fittings.	To stop pests growing on or in your boat.		✓	