



Know the rules before heading south this summer

Marine biosecurity rules are in force across the top of the South Island and your vessel may well be inspected this summer if you go visiting.

“People often ask about the different rules in Marlborough, Tasman and Nelson, and the requirements in the marinas” said Peter Lawless the Marine Biosecurity Coordinator for the Top of the South. “The simple answer is if you are clean below, you are good to go. As you cross Cook Strait, Marlborough requires you to have no more than 5% of the hull to be covered with hard fouling. If you have complied with the marina requirement of 6 or 1 you should meet this easily. This means fresh anti-fouling within six months or a lift and clean within one month. The marina will want to see your documentation on this. If the inspection team pulls up beside you while you are out in the Sounds or in Abel Tasman, they won’t ask for documentation. They will be inspecting every vessel they encounter. They will give you an assessment of your hull condition. They will also gather information on where your vessel is from, when it was antifouled and when it was cleaned. If you exceed the regional standards, or have a named pest on the hull, the council may direct further action. This could include slipping and cleaning before going further. If they find fanworm the vessel may be directed to be dealt with in other ways such as being wrapped in plastic and dosed with chlorine.”

For more information, including all the details on the rules for different locations, see <https://www.marinebiosecurity.co.nz/resources>.

