

Pest-free Warrant

For commercial vessels and tourism operators working in the Hauraki Gulf

A) CHECKLIST

See the guidance notes that follow for further detail.

PRE-DEPARTURE

Biosecurity information:

- Biosecurity information is provided on the commercial vessel operator's or tourism operator's website.
- Pre-departure biosecurity information is provided to clients on booking/ticketing.
- Any machinery and/or equipment to be transported is clean and free of pests, soil, plant material and seeds prior to departure.
- If supplies cannot be packaged in rodent-proof containers, they are inspected by the relevant biosecurity staff member prior to departure.
- Kayak operators only** – measures are taken to minimise the risk of pest stowaways in stored kayaks and group gear.

DEPARTURE

- All clients gear/luggage is packed in rodent-proof containers/bags.
- All clients have adequately cleaned their gear/luggage/bags and checked it for rodents, insects and other pests prior to boarding the vessel.
- All clients' footwear and clothing is clean and free of dirt/mud and seeds.
- A brush/shoe pick and water is available, so clients with dirty footwear can clean their footwear prior to departure.
- Kayak operators only** – kayaks are checked and sprayed with insecticide immediately before departing, including when travelling from one island to another.

ON BOARD / PRE-ARRIVAL

- A biosecurity briefing specific to the island is delivered to all clients on the journey to the pest-free island.

ARRIVAL

- An introductory island specific briefing (excluding biosecurity information if this has already been given on board) is given to all clients.

ON THE ISLAND

- No rubbish is thrown away on the island, including organic waste.
- All rubbish is kept in the clients' bag and taken off the pest-free island when they depart.

MAINTAINING A PEST-FREE VESSEL

For commercial vessel operators only

On board surveillance:

- An adequate number of approved traps are set and baited and on board the vessel at all times. Refer to the guidance notes for the number of traps required for your vessel.
- On board traps are always checked prior to any departure (preferably daily).
- No loose soil, vegetative matter or other plant material which may harbour pests is kept on board the vessel.

Pest control at the vessel's overnight berth:

- At least 5 traps or bait stations are maintained at the locations where the vessel is berthed overnight.
- All traps and/or bait stations are checked at least monthly and old bait replaced.

Rubbish:

- All rubbish on the vessel is kept in secure and sealed containers.
- Rubbish is removed from the vessel as soon as it returns to the mainland.

Responding to an incursion:

If any of the pests listed in the guidance notes are detected on board:

- The relevant biosecurity staff member is informed as soon as possible (see contact details in the guidance notes).
- An alternative pest-free vessel is found to take over the trip.
- The vessel is decontaminated in consultation with the relevant biosecurity staff member prior to departure.

Reporting:

- A record of all traps and bait stations checked, rodents caught, any bait taken or any rodent 'sign' seen (eg. droppings, chewed wiring) is kept in a log book held on the vessel and available for inspection.

PEST INCURSION?

- Call the 24 hour emergency DOC Hotline (0800 DOC HOTline/0800 362 468).

B) GUIDANCE NOTES

PRE-DEPARTURE

Biosecurity information:

- Contact the relevant biosecurity staff member (see below for contact details) for the biosecurity information to be provided to clients via your website, email and/or in person over the phone when booking/ticketing. It will include information such as:
 - » Types of gear/luggage/bags permitted on pest-free islands.
 - » Standards for cleanliness of footwear and clothing.
 - » Procedures for biosecurity checks on the day of departure.
- To organise an inspection of bulky supplies or equipment that cannot be packaged securely (e.g. tools, machinery, vehicles, marquees, large tents/"pop-ups" etc) please contact the relevant biosecurity staff member. Please ensure you give at least 14 working days notice of the need for the inspection of supplies.
- No soil or vegetative matter may be transported to a pest-free island. Exceptions and mitigation of the risks associated must be negotiated with the relevant biosecurity staff member in advance of the transportation of these goods.

DEPARTURE

- Rodent-proof containers/bags include:
 - » Strong bags with the tops securely tied.
 - » Plastic barrels with large diameter screw top lids.
 - » Wooden or plastic containers with firmly sealable lids.
 - » Solid taped up cardboard boxes with no holes (not acceptable for Little Barrier/Hauturu).
 - » Sealable day packs or overnight bags - bags must be able to be completely closed and have no holes.
- Clients are shown how to inspect their bags for any hidden pests, and footwear and clothing for any dirt and seeds.
- An alternative acceptable bag (eg zipped gear bag) is on hand to loan clients that turn up with inappropriately packed gear.
- If gear needs to be opened on board, it must not be left unattended while remaining open to reduce the risk of any rodents on board entering gear.
- **Kayak operators only** – BV2 insecticide is recommended for spraying kayaks. Contact the relevant biosecurity staff member for further assistance.

ON BOARD / PRE-ARRIVAL

Briefings for visitors to pest- free islands:

The following key points are to be covered in a briefing to all visitors to pest-free Islands. They should be delivered in a friendly, welcoming but assertive style and the presenter should make sure that the key messages are delivered effectively and received by the visitors (e.g. the presenter must ensure ensure visitors are paying attention).

- This island is pest-free and we need your assistance to help keep it pest-free.

- Pests can stowaway in your luggage. It's unlikely, but it can and does happen. Please take a moment to check your bag and any other gear for mice, ants or skinks before you leave the vessel.
- A mouse can squeeze through a gap the size of a wedding ring. Open bags left unattended could easily result in a stowaway.
- Weeds are a major threat to pest-free islands. Ensure your footwear, pockets, velcro and fleece clothing are free of any plant matter or seeds.
- Diseases are a threat to plants and animals on pest-free islands. Please ensure that all gear is free of any soil. Clothes, footwear and other equipment that has been in contact with wildlife within the last three months should be treated with disinfectant.
- All plants and animals on this island are fully protected and must not be interfered with in any way. This also means no feeding of animals or taking samples or 'treasures' away with you.
- Keep to the tracks.
- Please don't hesitate to ask staff if you have any questions.
- **Little Barrier/Hauturu only** – all gear/bags going ashore must remain sealed from the time they are checked on the mainland, to after they have been checked again by the ranger on the island.

ARRIVAL

- **Little Barrier/Hauturu only** - because of its status as a Nature Reserve, all visitors must unpack their bag in a secure building e.g. the quarantine store or bunkhouse immediately on arrival. DOC rangers will be on hand to lead your group through this process.

ON THE ISLAND

- Please adopt the 'pack in, pack out' policy - all rubbish must be taken off the island. Organic rubbish thrown away on pest-free islands could cause the establishment of unwanted plants on the islands which may not already be present.

PEST INCURSION?

RODENT

For any pest-free island, if any sign of a rodent is found:

- Under no circumstances can a vessel on which a pest has been detected travel to a pest-free island (see below for a list of these). An alternative pest-free vessel must take over the sailing.
- Destroy the rodent if practical (do not throw overboard as they can swim).
- Record and immediately inform the relevant biosecurity staff member and seek advice. See below for contact numbers or use the 24 hour emergency DOC Hotline (0800 DOC HOTline/0800 362 468).
- Depending on the nature of the incursion, advice and assistance will be provided to ensure the vessel is decontaminated. An audit will need to be carried out on the vessel to confirm its pest-free status prior to its next departure.
- Arrange an alternative vessel until the first vessel has been cleared by biosecurity staff (if a rodent is detected on board).
- Supervise the checking of all gear when transferring to the alternative vessel.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Hauraki Gulf
Marine Park
Ko te Pataka ki
o Tikapa Moan

Treasure islands

Check for stowaways

www.treasureislands.co.nz

B) GUIDANCE NOTES *continued...*

INVERTEBRATES & SKINKS

For any pest-free island, if any sign of invertebrates/ insects or skinks are found in group gear:

- Destroy the invertebrate, keeping a sample if practical until a biosecurity staff member has been informed.
- Check the rest of the group gear and if clear carry on. If unsure seek advice from the relevant biosecurity staff member.
- Record for future learning about how pests invade.
- Inform the relevant biosecurity staff member within 7 days.

BIOSECURITY STAFF MEMBER CONTACTS:

For further information, contact one of the following biosecurity staff:

For Rangitoto, Motutapu, Browns (Motukorea) and Motuihe please contact

Fin Buchanan—Ranger, Island Biosecurity

Department of Conservation
Auckland Area Office
Ph 09 445 9142 Mobile 027 240 5069
Email fbuchanan@doc.govt.nz

For Tiritiri Matangi, Motuora and Little Barrier Island/Hauturu please contact

Vic Thackray—Ranger, Biosecurity

Warkworth Great Barrier Area Office
Ph 09 425 7812 Mobile 027 558 5592
Email vthackray@doc.govt.nz

For Kawau, Rakino, Great Barrier Island/Aotea and other islands in the Hauraki Gulf please contact

Jeff Cook—Biosecurity Officer, Hauraki Gulf

Auckland Council
Ph 09 624 4926 Mobile 027 555 3451
Email Jeff.Cook@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

MAINTAINING A PEST-FREE VESSEL

- for commercial vessel operators only

On board surveillance:

- The guidelines for the minimum number of traps for a commercial vessel operating in the Hauraki Gulf are: **1 per vessel + 1 for every 7 m of vessel length + 1 for each galley/food stowage area + 1 for each rubbish stowage area**, e.g. for a 13 m vessel with a galley and a rubbish stowage area, a minimum of 5 traps/bait stations is required.
- A biosecurity staff member can assist with effective rodent management techniques for your particular vessel, along with information on approved suppliers (contact details below).

Pest control at the vessel's overnight berth:

- Bait stations or traps are acceptable, as is a mixture of bait stations and traps, with no less than 5 in total.
- If your vessel is moored at a marina, check with your marina operator, as they may already be providing this service.
- Please contact a biosecurity staff member in advance of your warrant check if there are any issues regarding this requirement.

Rubbish:

- Tied up plastic rubbish bags are not rodent-proof. Solid bins with lids and wheels are recommended.
- It is expected that all rubbish will be disposed of within 6 hours of a vessel berthing at its overnight location.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards or
conservation emergencies

For fire and search and rescue call 111

FURTHER INFORMATION

WHICH ISLANDS ARE PEST-FREE?

Pest-free islands

- Rangitoto* • Motutapu* • Rakino
- The Noises Group • Motuihe • Browns (Motukorea)
- Tiritiri Matangi • Beehive • Motuora
- Mokohinau Islands • Kaikoura*
- Broken Islands* • Hauturu/Little Barrier

*Eradication of pests is underway—please treat these islands as though they are pest-free.

Islands that have some pests

- Waiheke—has ship rats, Norway rats, mice, stoats, ferrets, goats, pigs, hedgehogs, rabbits, Argentine ants, Rainbow skinks and feral cats. Does not have possums or weasels.
- Kawau Island—has ship rats, possums, feral cats, stoats, ferrets, hedgehogs and Argentine ants. It also has four types of wallabies which are considered a pest. No weasels, mice or Norway rats.
- Karamuramu and Pakihi/Sandspit—has mice and Norway rats.
- Pakatoa—has cats.
- Ponui—has cats, feral goats, stoats, mice, Norway rats and possibly ship rats.
- Rotoroa—has cats, mice and Norway rats.

- Great Barrier Island (Aotea)—has ship rats, mice, pigs, rabbits and feral cats. Argentine ant eradication is underway. Does not have any mustelids (stoats, weasels and ferrets) or Norway rats.
- Rakitu (Arid Island)—has rats.

Mice are the only animal pest on these islands - Moturekareka, Motutara, Motuketekete, Kohatutara, Te Haupa (Saddle Island).

PEST ANIMALS OF CONCERN

Pests of primary concern to our pest-free islands are:

- **Rodents—rats and mice.** These pests eat native chicks, eggs, insects and lizards. They compete with our native species for food.
- **Argentine ants.** Well established in the Auckland area, these ants are a big threat to our native wildlife. They can build up into massive numbers and are organised and aggressive. They compete for food with native species and displace and eat native wildlife.
- **Soil and seeds.** Soil and weed seeds are easily transported on clothing and footwear. Weeds can quickly take over and can strangle our native bush. Soil can carry diseases that threaten native plants.
- **Rainbow skinks.** Prolific breeders and displace our native skinks. The young are as small as matchsticks.



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